INSIDE TODAY

The first Edinburgh special edition of our Arts supplement, and Business HQ Monthly – 16 pages of industry insight

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Murrell's legal aid bill for SNP embezzlement to rise

Officials confirm payments made so far are 'tip of the iceberg'

Sturgeon and Murrell

Exclusive
Rebecca McCurdy

PETER Murrell's legal aid bill is expected to rise significantly despite his early guilty plea for embezzling more than £400,000 from the SNP.

Counsel representing the former SNP chief executive in court have received £4,831 to date, but Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB) officials confirmed this figure was the tip of the iceberg.

The 61-year-old, who is the estranged husband of former first minister Nicola Sturgeon, is serving a prison term of five years and three months after he pleaded guilty to embezzling £400,310.65 from the SNP between August 2010 and October 2022.

He used the funds to purchase luxury goods for his own use, including a luxury motorhome, watches and cars.

Murrell was granted legal aid last year after his personal assets were frozen as part of the investigation.

He intends to repay the embezzled sum in full, with the figure expected to be uprated to take account of inflation.

Legal aid chiefs will not be able to demand that Murrell reimburses the public purse once his assets have been unfrozen – despite having more than £600,000 in two pension pots.

Officials told The Herald they anticipate more payments will be made as solicitors have yet to provide accounts in relation to Murrell's case.

Solicitors can submit interim accounts while a case is running or wait to submit final accounts up to four months after the case finishes.

But with the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 proceedings continuing, the final bill may not be settled until the new year.

A spokeswoman for SLAB told The Herald: "We have paid advocates £4,831 so far for their work on this case.

"Legal representatives can send us bills during a case, or up to four months after it ends.

"We have not received any bills

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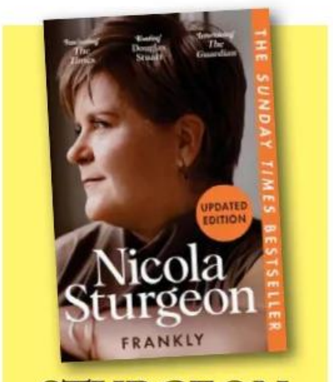

STURGEON MEMOIR

Is former First Minister leaving the SNP for the Greens?

Rebecca McCurdy – P3

With friends like these... Sturgeon stabs her oldest SNP colleagues in the back

Kevin McKenna – P15

Suspect in court over death of Scottish charity worker

Ahmadzai is led away

A MAN accused of killing a Scottish woman and disposing of her body in a suitcase has appeared in court in Athens.

The 26-year-old is accused of killing Elisabeth-Jane Ross, 38, who was discovered by a homeless man in a derelict building in the Kypseli area of the Greek capital on July 18.

The suspect arrived for the court hearing yesterday morning in an unmarked grey Hyundai i30 car, alongside a number of police officers.

About an hour later he was escorted from the court and back into the same car by masked officers, before being driven away.

He was dressed in a black tracksuit top and had his head bowed as he walked to the car. It is understood he was assigned a court-appointed lawyer during the hearing, which took place in private.

He is expected to appear again for a further hearing today.

The court is located on the city's Evelpidon Street, a short walk from where the charity worker's body was found.

The suspect is understood to be Sharif Ahmadzai, 26, an Afghan boxer who left his

Continued on Page 12

Nearly £1.4m for repairs at historic Beach Ballroom

The Beach Ballroom

ABERDEEN'S historic Beach Ballroom is set to undergo almost £1.4 million of improvement works.

Aberdeen City Council has approved plans to tender the refurbishment project as part of its City Centre and Beach Masterplan.

The works, approved at a meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee yesterday, will include extensive roof and external repairs, a rebuild of the building's dome, and replacement leadwork.

The project will also deliver a range of accessibility improvements, including level access to the main entrance, a wheelchair lift from the ground to lower ground floor, and a lift providing access to the first-floor ballroom.

Other upgrades include window replacements in the Star Ballroom and new alarm and CCTV systems.

The repairs are also expected to improve the building's energy efficiency.

The tender for the project, valued at £1.39m, is expected to be issued in the winter.

The refurbishment forms part of wider plans to improve Aberdeen's beachfront and protect one of the city's most recognisable venues.

Man charged with murder of Minnie, 9

Gaby McKay

A NINE-year-old girl who was killed in Arbroath has been named by police, with 35-year-old Christopher Rice charged with her murder.

Minnie Merriman was found with serious injuries on the Elliot Industrial Estate at around midnight on Monday.

She was taken to Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, where she later died.

The man, who was known to the deceased, appeared in court yesterday.

Rice was charged with murder when he appeared at Forfar Sheriff Court.

He did not enter a plea and was committed for further examination and remanded in custody.

Officers are not looking for anyone else in connection with her death and the other members of the family, from West Yorkshire, who were camping in the area, are being supported by specialist officers.

In a statement, released through Police Scotland, her family said: "We are devastated with the loss of our beloved, absolutely incredible, beautiful and brave Minnie Moo.

"Our family asks that our privacy is respected at this extremely difficult time."

Detective Inspector Mike Ness of the Major Investigation Team said: "Our thoughts remain with everyone affected by these events, especially Minnie's family.

"A police presence will remain in the area while our inquiries continue.

"Anyone with any concerns, or information, should approach these officers or contact Police Scotland on 101, quoting incident number 0008 of Monday, 3 August 2026."

Urgent review required

'Literally crumbling': Data shows extent of NHS repairs

Exclusive
Rebecca McCurdy

MORE than one-third of NHS Scotland's estate has major defects, SNP ministers have confirmed.

The Scottish Government has been told it must urgently review hospital buildings and GP surgeries to ensure they remain safe for the public and staff who rely on them.

Health Secretary Angela Constance confirmed 34% of the NHS estate in Scotland was assessed as being in Condition C or D – meaning they require urgent repair.

Ms Constance confirmed the figures in response to a parliamentary question by

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Clarifications and corrections

IT IS The Herald's policy to correct errors as soon as we can and all corrections and clarifications will usually appear on this page.

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NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

The recycled paper content of UK newspapers in 2022 was 53%.

University of Highlands & Islands principal O'Neil steps down from role

PROFESSOR Chris O'Neil is stepping down from his role as principal and chief executive at the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Inverness campus.

The process is now under way to appoint a successor.

UHI has a unique federal structure, with 48 campuses, research institutes, and specialist learning centres across the Highlands and Islands, Moray, and Perthshire.

Professor O'Neil said: "It has been a true privilege to lead and support the education of our students for nearly a decade, and to work alongside such skilled and dynamic colleagues.

"My time at UHI Inverness has undoubtedly been the highlight of my career to date, and I wish my successor, colleagues and students all the very best."

Janette Campbell, Interim Chair of the UHI Inverness Board of Management, said: "I wish to express my sincere thanks to Chris for his dedication and commitment to UHI Inverness over the last nine years.

"We wish him every success and all the very best for the future.

"The board of management is working with Chris to ensure the continued delivery of the high-quality education, care and support that our students and wider community have come to expect from UHI Inverness.

"Further information on the process and timeline for appointing an Interim Principal and Chief Executive will be announced in due course."

NHS clerks in strike rally

Some of the 230 NHS ward clerks on strike across the Glasgow region rally outside Scotland's largest hospital, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in the city, after voting to take action over pay

EIF defies boycott with sold-out shows

Exclusive
Brian Ferguson

THE Edinburgh International Festival (EIF) has insisted that the event has been unaffected by a boycott campaign over its Baillie Gifford sponsorship, as it reported booming ticket sales ahead of its opening weekend.

Organisers have reported "numerous" sold-out shows and performances ahead of the 79-year-old festival's official opening tomorrow.

The demand for tickets has emerged despite calls from pro-Palestine activists for audiences and artists to shun the event over the Edinburgh-based company's investments in Israel.

Director Nicola Benedetti has defended its long-standing partnership with the investment firm, which is also one of the biggest corporate backers of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Ms Benedetti declared that she wants the festival, which runs until August 30, to continue working with Baillie Gifford because of the company's support for the arts.

The violinist has described a vandal attack criticising Baillie Gifford's involvement with the festival on the event's Royal Mile headquarters – carried out just weeks after a boycott was announced by the Art Workers for Palestine group – as "violating".

Director Nicola Benedetti

Francesca Hegyi, the festival's chief executive, said the boycott had not had a "discernible impact" on the event so far.

The main focus of this month's festival programme, which features almost 150 performances, is a celebration of American history and culture, timed to coincide with the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Among the hottest tickets in the EIF line-up are The Galloping Cure, a new opera by American composer Missy Mazzoli, a new adaptation of Tony Kushner's 1990s play Angels in America, a revival of a Duke Ellington jazz symphony and appearances by the LA Philharmonic orchestra.

Other in-demand shows include opening concert All Rise, which will be led by American trumpeter Wynton Marsalis, a sequel to Henrik Ibsen's play An Enemy of the People, which will star Golden Globe-winning Brazilian actor Wagner Moura, and concerts by the Berliner Philharmoniker orchestra.

A spokesperson for the festival said: "Demand across the programme is strong. We've seen particularly strong sales at the Usher Hall this year, with numerous sell-out concerts, especially across all three of our resident orchestras."

The Art Workers for Palestine group, which announced the boycott on the day of the EIF's programme launch in March, said it had decided to target the event after repeatedly raising concerns with the festival about its partnership with Baillie Gifford, which has been one of the biggest private sector supporters of Scottish culture in recent years.

The EIF has come under pressure two years after the Edinburgh International Book Festival announced it was ending its 20-year partnership with Baillie Gifford in response to threats of a boycott and disruption from climate change campaigners over the company's links with the fossil fuels industry.

The 2026 EIF programme lists Baillie Gifford as the festival's main "supporting partner".

It currently gets more than £6 million in funding from the Scottish Government and Edinburgh City Council.

The festival has previously insisted that it "engaged deeply" with concerns over its Baillie Gifford partnership, but has also suggested that targeting arts organisations "is not a legitimate or constructive way to highlight issues such as the crisis in Gaza".

The festival called in the police after its headquarters were targeted by activists in April. Messages daubed onto The Hub building on the Royal Mile and EIF branded posters included "boycott", "free Palestine", "Baillie Gifford out", "blood money" and "funded by genocide".

Ms Benedetti said: "When there is such passion around such serious issues, the arena for discussions or dialogue is complicated.

"I have full trust in the conscientiousness, awareness and morality of our board. The festival is full of people and structures that are constantly questioning themselves.

"Baillie Gifford has supported not just our work, but the work of many cultural institutions. They've been true partners in not just supporting the work in the festival, but supporting hugely important work in the areas of discovery, participation, education and access.

"We apply the same due diligence to every single partnership and relationship that we have.

"It is important to have a balanced and diverse mix of where our funding comes from, so that there is not too much reliance on one camp. That would start to allow for the potential of too much dictating of what the festival can and cannot do. The suite of income streams we have at the moment is one I would like to maintain."

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WEATHER

24 HOUR FORECAST

General situation: A deep low-pressure system over the Atlantic brings unsettled weather across Scotland. Expect heavy rain in the north-west, turning to scattered showers by evening.

Outlook: Cloudy with light rain in the southwest on Friday, heavier rain in the Highlands and islands. Saturday brings more rain, especially in western regions, with cloudy spells elsewhere. Winds south-west, moderate.

Glasgow area and southwest Scotland: Mostly cloudy with occasional light rain and a mild feel. Breezy conditions persist, with winds blowing from the west, adding a fresh touch to the day. Max temp 16-17C (61-63F). Tonight, mild, breezy with light rain. Min temp 10-11C (50-52F).

Edinburgh area and the Borders: Cloudy and overcast, with brief spells of light rain throughout the day. A mild breeze from the west adds to the gentle atmosphere. Max temp 16-17C (61-63F). Tonight, mild, overcast with showers. Min temp 11-12C (52-54F).

Fife and the Stirling, Perth and Dundee areas: A mostly cloudy day with occasional light rain and a warm feel. Breezy westerly winds add a touch of dynamism to the otherwise settled conditions. Max temp 17-18C (63-64F). Tonight, mild with light rain, breezy. Min temp 11-12C (52-54F).

Argyll, Lochaber and the Inner Hebrides: A mild day with overcast skies and occasional light rain, as gentle westerly breezes contribute to a tranquil atmosphere throughout. Max temp 15-16C (59-61F). Tonight, mild with light rain, overcast. Min temp 9-10C (48-50F).

Central Highlands: A predominantly overcast day with mild temperatures and light rain in brief spells. Light westerly winds add a gentle touch to the atmosphere. Max temp 13-14C (55-57F). Tonight, mild with showers, breezy. Min temp 8-9C (46-48F).

Aberdeen area and the Moray Firth: A predominantly cloudy day with overcast skies and brief spells of light rain. Breezy north-westerly winds contribute to a mild overall feel. Max temp 15-16C (59-61F). Tonight, mild with light rain, windy. Min temp 11-12C (52-54F).

Northwest Highlands, Skye and Outer Hebrides: Breezy conditions prevail with overcast skies and light rain showers throughout the day. Despite the rain, temperatures feel mild overall. Max temp 13-14C (55-57F). Tonight, mild and breezy, rain expected. Min temp 8-9C (46-48F).

Caithness, Orkney and Shetland: Cloudy skies dominate with brief spells of light rain, carried by a north-westerly breeze. Mild temperatures offer some comfort amidst the overcast setting. Max temp 12-13C (54-55F). Tonight, mild with light rain, windy. Min temp 10-11C (50-52F).

European forecast

Ireland experiences intermittent rain with brief sunny spells in the west. The north sees mostly cloudy skies, while the south and east enjoy occasional sunshine with mild temperatures. Expect light winds throughout the day, with temperatures ranging from 12 to 17 degrees Celsius. The evening may bring some clearing in the northwest, while the southeast remains relatively dry.

Glasgow readings

The following readings were recorded at Glasgow Airport for the 24hrs ending 6pm yesterday.

Min temp: 14C (57F); Max: 16C (61F); Sun (hrs): 1.5; Barom (mb) 6am: 988.4; 6pm: –; Rainfall (ins): 0.07

Edinburgh readings

The following readings were recorded at Edinburgh Airport for the 24hrs ending 6pm yesterday.

Min temp: 15C (59F); Max: 18C (64F); Sun (hrs): 3.3; Barom (mb) 6am: 984.2; 6pm: –; Rainfall (ins): 0.07

UK EXTREMES

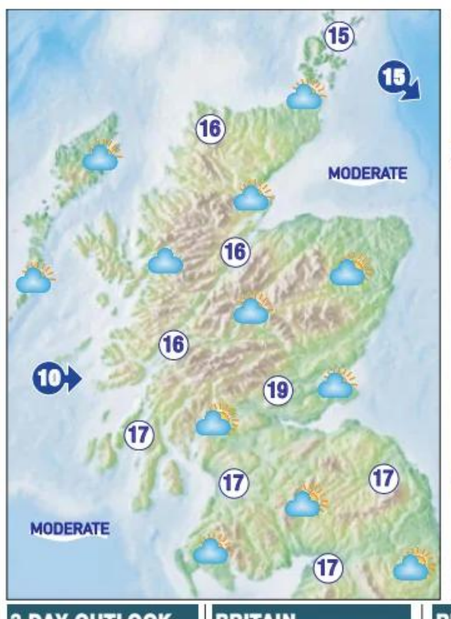
Extremes of temperature, rainfall and sunshine for 24 hours ending 11pm Tuesday

Warmest: Writtle, 32c.

Coldest: Baltasound No 2, 8c.

Wettest: Kinlochewe, 55.40mm.

Sunniest: Marston, 12.5hrs.



3-DAY OUTLOOK

Today

Glasgow	17C	63F	Fair
Edinburgh	18C	64F	Cloudy
Eskdalemuir	17C	63F	Cloudy
Aberdeen	17C	63F	Cloudy
Aviemore	16C	61F	Cloudy
Wick	15C	59F	Cloudy
Shetland	14C	57F	Fair

Tomorrow

Glasgow	19C	66F	Fair
Edinburgh	20C	68F	Fair
Eskdalemuir	18C	64F	Fair
Aberdeen	20C	68F	Fair
Aviemore	17C	63F	Cloudy
Wick	16C	61F	Rain
Shetland	16C	61F	Rain

Saturday

Glasgow	18C	64F	Rain
Edinburgh	19C	66F	Rain
Eskdalemuir	17C	63F	Rain
Aberdeen	19C	66F	Cloudy
Aviemore	17C	63F	Rain
Wick	16C	61F	Rain
Shetland	16C	61F	Rain

BRITAIN

Aberdeen	21C	70F	Cloudy
Aviemore	16C	61F	Thunder
Belfast	16C	61F	Thunder
Birmingham	21C	70F	Fair
Brighton	24C	75F	Fair
Bristol	21C	70F	Sunny
Cardiff	20C	68F	Fair
Carlisle	16C	61F	Showers
Edinburgh	17C	63F	Showers
Eskdalemuir	14C	57F	Thunder
Glasgow	15C	59F	Thunder
Inverness	20C	68F	Thunder
Isle of Man	18C	64F	Showers
Isle of Wight	21C	70F	Sunny
Jersey	20C	68F	Sunny
Kinloss	20C	68F	Thunder
Kirkwall	14C	57F	Cloudy
Lerwick	12C	54F	Showers
Leuchars	19C	66F	Showers
Liverpool	17C	63F	Fair
London	25C	77F	Fair
Manchester	19C	66F	Showers
Newcastle	20C	68F	Fair
Penzance	21C	70F	Fair
Perth	19C	66F	Thunder
Prestwick	15C	59F	Thunder
St Andrews	19C	66F	Showers
Stornoway	13C	55F	Rain
Tiree	13C	55F	Showers
Wick	16C	61F	Cloudy

REST OF THE WORLD

Ajaccio	33C	91F	Fair
Amsterdam	24C	75F	Fair
Athens	35C	95F	Sunny
Atlanta	23C	73F	Thunder
Auckland	11C	52F	Sunny
Bangkok	33C	91F	Fair
Barbados*	31C	88F	Fair
Barcelona	34C	93F	Sunny
Beijing	36C	97F	Sunny
Belgrade	36C	97F	Sunny
Benidorm	31C	88F	Sunny
Berlin	29C	84F	Fair
Biarritz	25C	77F	Showers
Bordeaux	26C	79F	Cloudy
Boston*	28C	82F	Sunny
Brisbane	21C	70F	Sunny
Brussels	24C	75F	Fair
Bucharest	34C	93F	Sunny
Budapest	37C	99F	Sunny
Buenos Aires*	12C	54F	Cloudy
Cagliari	35C	95F	Sunny
Cairo	32C	90F	Sunny
Cape Town	15C	59F	Cloudy
Caracas	32C	90F	Showers
Casablanca	27C	81F	Sunny
Chicago	28C	82F	Sunny
Christchurch	8C	46F	Fair
Copenhagen	23C	73F	Fair
Corfu	34C	93F	Sunny
Costa Brava	36C	97F	Sunny
Crete	30C	86F	Sunny
Dubai	45C	113F	Sunny
Dublin	17C	63F	Showers
Faro	25C	77F	Sunny
Fiji	23C	73F	Cloudy
Florence	36C	97F	Sunny
Frankfurt	31C	88F	Fair
Funchal	28C	82F	Sunny
Geneva	28C	82F	Fair
Gibraltar	27C	81F	Sunny
Helsinki	20C	68F	Fair
Hong Kong	29C	84F	Sunny
Honolulu	31C	88F	Showers
Ibiza	31C	88F	Sunny
Istanbul	32C	90F	Sunny
Jerusalem	34C	93F	Sunny
Kolkata	30C	86F	Thunder
Kuala Lumpur	32C	90F	Fair
Kuwait City	46C	115F	Sunny
Larnaca	34C	93F	Sunny
Las Palmas	32C	90F	Sunny
Las Vegas	43C	109F	Sunny
Le Touquet	22C	72F	Showers
Lisbon	27C	81F	Sunny
Los Angeles*	25C	77F	Fair
Luxembourg	26C	79F	Fair
Madrid	32C	90F	Sunny
Mahon	32C	90F	Sunny
Malaga	34C	93F	Sunny
Malta	32C	90F	Sunny
Manila	26C	79F	Thunder
Melbourne	14C	57F	Cloudy
Mexico City	22C	72F	Sunny
Miami*	32C	90F	Fair
Milan	34C	93F	Sunny
Moscow	24C	75F	Sunny
Naples	34C	93F	Sunny
New Delhi	27C	81F	Thunder
New Orleans	32C	90F	Sunny
New York*	27C	81F	Sunny
Nice	30C	86F	Sunny
Oslo	15C	59F	Rain
Palma	32C	90F	Showers
Paris	25C	77F	Fair
Port Stanley	3C	37F	Drizzle
Prague	33C	91F	Fair
Reykjavik	12C	54F	Cloudy
Rhodes	28C	82F	Sunny
Rio de Janeiro*	25C	77F	Sunny
Rome	34C	93F	Fair
Seoul	35C	95F	Sunny
Sicily	31C	88F	Fair
Singapore	31C	88F	Fair
Sofia	32C	90F	Sunny
St Petersburg	21C	70F	Fair
Stockholm	24C	75F	Cloudy
Sydney	16C	61F	Sunny
Tenerife	32C	90F	Fair
Tokyo	30C	86F	Fair
Toronto*	26C	79F	Sunny
Tunis	37C	99F	Drizzle
Venice	32C	90F	Sunny
Vienna	38C	100F	Sunny
Warsaw	34C	93F	Sunny
Washington*	30C	86F	Fair
Wellington	9C	48F	Showers

MOUNTAIN AREA FORECASTS:
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast/

If you do not have access to the internet please contact the Met Office Customer Centre for a forecast: Tel: 0870 900 0100

SUN, MOON & TIDES

SUN: Rises 5.30am 9.13pm
MOON: Rises 10.56pm 3.58pm
LIGHTING UP: 9.13pm

HIGH WATER:

Aberdeen	7.03am	7.54pm
Arbroath	7.40am	8.33pm
Glasgow	6.13am	6.34pm
Greenock	5.49am	6.18pm
Leith	8.19am	9.05pm
Mallaig	11.33am	-
Montrose	7.48am	8.39pm
Peterhead	6.33am	7.27pm
Ullapool	12.33am	1.16pm
Wick	4.52am	5.37pm

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Is Nicola Sturgeon planning to leave the SNP for the Greens?

Rebecca McCurdy

NICOLA Sturgeon put further distance between herself and the SNP as she heaped praise on the Scottish Greens' political vision.

The former first minister has come under criticism for a new 6,000-word introduction to the paperback edition of her memoir Frankly after she criticised the SNP's leadership under John Swinney.

But Ms Sturgeon, who left the Scottish Parliament in May, continued her scrutiny of the SNP by praising the Scottish Greens – co-led by Ross Greer and Gillian Mackay – for standing up for the issues they believed in.

Ms Sturgeon and Mr Greer formed a strong bond during the Bute House Agreement – the power-sharing deal that saw the Greens enter government alongside the SNP in 2021.

Her comments have led veterans within the SNP to question whether she has switched allegiances to the Scottish Greens.

The SNP won a historic fifth Holyrood term in May, but fell short of a majority on 58 seats, while the Scottish Greens witnessed a surge in support, electing 15 MSPs despite standing in just six constituencies.

Ms Sturgeon described the Holyrood election as a "triumph" for her party but warned there were lessons that Mr Swinney must "heed".

She said there had been commentary about the SNP being lucky that Reform UK split the pro-union vote.

But she said the luck the SNP enjoyed was that the Scottish Greens only stood in six of the 73 constituencies.

"It was the Scottish Greens, who, in my view, came closest to injecting a sense of hope for the future into the campaign," she said.

She said she did not agree with the Greens on every issue, but she praised them for their ability to stand up for what they believe in on "deeply controversial" issues.

She wrote: "They don't cower in the face of pressure from the right-wing media or corporate vested interests. And I think that wins respect, even from people who don't support them."

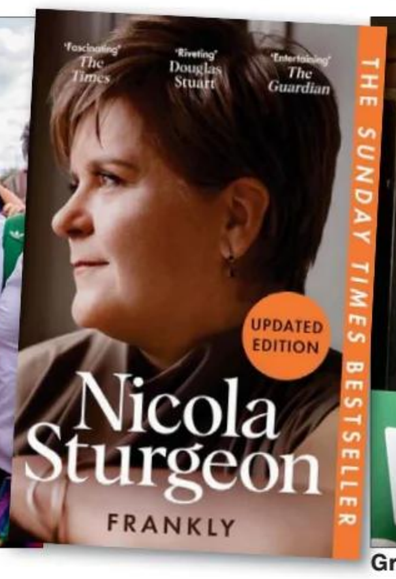
She addressed many young, left-leaning voters leaving the SNP for the Scottish Greens, warning Mr Swinney's party faces an "electoral blunder" if it softened its environmental policies.

Ms Sturgeon accused the SNP of failing to "bring alive" the opportunities that Scottish independence offers to people.

She said there was a "lack of vision or big-picture thinking" from the SNP in the recent election campaign.

Education Secretary Màiri McAllan – a former special adviser to Ms Sturgeon – described the criticism as "nonsense" in an interview with BBC Radio Scotland's breakfast programme this week. She said: "It was a historic election result for the SNP, the largest ever gap, if I remember correctly, between us and those who came into second place, so I was really proud to stand in that election alongside John Swinney on a positive future for our country, on always standing up for Scotland."

John Swinney with Nicola Sturgeon as she prepared to leave Holyrood Picture: Jane Barlow/PA



Sturgeon's book Frankly is now out in paperback

Greens co-leaders Ross Greer and Gillian Mackay

> It was the Scottish Greens, who, in my view, came closest to injecting a sense of hope

Ms Sturgeon said she will "never seek a return to elected politics" but insisted she will not be "silent" on issues that matter to her.

She said hard-won rights for women, LGBT+ communities and ethnic minorities were "under pressure" and, in some cases, being "pushed into reverse".

The former first minister also said there was "disillusionment" and trust in democracy had been "stoked deliberately by a breed of populist politicians".

In her foreword, Ms Sturgeon also appealed to Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats to work with the SNP in spite of their disagreements on Scottish independence following the rise of Reform UK.

She said: "No matter how important it is in a democracy to debate these robustly – we also need, at this moment in history, to cross party lines on occasion, to work together to protect the democratic principles which unite us.

"That is not comfortable territory for politicians, but it is vital."

She said that, in the face of the challenge posed by Reform UK in Holyrood, politicians had to put their disagreements on independence on hold and "cross the dividing line" on policies like immigration.

FM defends 'strong' SNP election campaign after Sturgeon memoir attack

Craig Meighan

JOHN Swinney has defended his Holyrood election campaign following an attack from Nicola Sturgeon.

But the First Minister, inset, refused to say whether he had spoken with his former boss about her public criticism.

In a new foreword for her memoir, the former SNP leader said the campaign was detached from the issues impacting Scots, as she criticised it for lacking "vision" and "big picture thinking".

Senior ministers rebuked the former first minister, with Education Secretary Màiri McAllan calling the claims "nonsense" and Health Secretary Angela Constance saying she was "incorrect".

In an apparent swipe at Ms Sturgeon, Ms Constance said Mr Swinney was the best SNP First Minister the country has had.

Speaking during a visit to Broughty Ferry yesterday, Mr Swinney refused to criticise Ms Sturgeon but insisted he ran a "strong" election campaign.

He told the Press Association: "The election campaign resulted in an SNP win. It resulted in the biggest gap between the SNP and our nearest opposition party (since devolution).

"So I think, on objective data, it demonstrates the SNP ran a strong, commanding election campaign, we got a big win from the people of Scotland, and I'm very pleased to have led that campaign."

He added: "The SNP has just won the election and has commanded the confidence of the people of Scotland with an election campaign that related to what I thought was the most important issue facing the people of Scotland in the election campaign, which was the cost of living challenges people are facing."

Asked if he felt betrayed by Ms Sturgeon's public criticism of his campaign, Mr Swinney said he was "delighted" to have his own mandate.

He added: "I enjoyed working for Nicola Sturgeon as her deputy first minister and I delivered, along with her, significant improvements in the lives of people in Scotland.

"But I'm absolutely over the Moon to have my own mandate that allows me to improve the lives of the people in Scotland and that's exactly what I intend to do."

Asked if he had spoken to Ms Sturgeon about her comments, he said: "I'm not going to divulge my private conversations."

In a new foreword for the paperback version of her memoir Frankly, Ms Sturgeon said her party's Holyrood election campaign was "detached from the big issues bearing down on people's lives" while warning it would be a "massive blunder for the SNP to soften its left-of-centre environmentalist credentials".

She wrote that the SNP "rightly put Scottish independence centrally as an objective but didn't always bring alive the opportunities it offers for people in a tangible sense".

Ms Sturgeon said the election was a "triumph for my party", but there are lessons in the result that it should heed.

Scotland's Health Secretary said she was "not correct", saying: "I have been a minister for a number of years. I've had the great privilege of serving all SNP first ministers and what I will say about John Swinney is that we have the best First Minister yet."

Ms McAllan went further, saying Ms Sturgeon's comments were "nonsense".

Ms Sturgeon stepped down as an MSP from Holyrood at the May election three years after quitting as first minister.

In June, her estranged husband Peter Murrell, whom she kept on as SNP chief executive, was sentenced to more than five years in prison after embezzling more than £400,000 from the party.

At the time, Ms Sturgeon's lawyer said she was "utterly deceived and let down by her husband whom she had trusted", adding that his actions were "beyond her comprehension".

She "remains angry, hurt and distressed", he added.

Murrell legal aid bill set to rise over funds case

Continued from Page 1

from the solicitors in this case yet, so we expect to make further payments. We check all bills carefully and only pay what is allowed under the legal aid rules."

Legal experts have told The Herald the bill could run up into tens of thousands of pounds, given the months of negotiations between lawyers prior to Murrell's guilty plea in May.

Solicitors reviewed hundreds of witness statements and more than 1,000 individual items embezzled by Murrell over his 12-year embezzlement spree. Murrell instructed his legal representatives to explore a resolution of the case by way of a guilty plea on March 3 this year, with lawyers taking up to just days before the May court appearance to finalise the terms.

Stephen Kerr, justice spokesman for the Scottish Conservatives, said Murrell's legal aid bill was an "obscene misuse of public money".

Murrell is due to return to court next month, represented by John Scullion KC, where a confiscation hearing will take place. Details of his assets were lodged with the Registers of Scotland in June and it included his share of the marital home he shared with Ms Sturgeon, which is listed to the value of £88,632.

While Ms Sturgeon will not be required to assist Murrell in the repayment, it is expected their marital home will have to be sold.

The listed assets include the £124,550 Niesmann+Bischoff motorhome, seized from outside his elderly mother's home in Dunfermline, Fife.

A second listed asset states there is the "sum of £613,496.04" as the "gross funds" in two Legal and General pension accounts.

Murrell also co-owned a villa in Portugal's Algarve region alongside family friends and his sister. The house was sold six months after Murrell was granted legal aid, with the 61-year-old reportedly pocketing around £50,000.

Scottish Tory MSP Mr Kerr said: "Scottish taxpayers will be utterly sickened that the legal aid bill for Peter Murrell is set to keep rising, with tens of thousands of pounds now likely to be handed to the lawyers of a man who has been jailed after embezzling more than £400,000.

"This is an obscene misuse of public money and a damning indictment of the SNP's broken legal aid system. Ministers must stop expecting hardworking Scots to bankroll convicted criminals."

Scottish Labour acting leader Jackie Baillie said "Scotland's legal aid system is under enormous pressure – so it is astonishing that Peter Murrell was able to have all his legal costs paid for by the taxpayer.

"Given that Peter Murrell has the funds to return hundreds of thousands of pounds to the SNP and he had assets in Portugal at the time, there are questions to answer about why taxpayers are covering his legal fees. He should repay his legal aid costs immediately."

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£500,000 for active travel projects

MORE than half a million pounds has been awarded to community projects promoting cycling and sustainable travel across the west of Scotland.

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) has allocated £567,586 to 29 initiatives through its People & Place Programme Community Fund, supported by Transport Scotland.

The programme aims to encourage a long-term shift away from car use by making active and low-carbon travel more accessible.

Funded projects include cycle training, bike storage, bike loan schemes and initiatives designed to improve access to cycling for schools, workplaces and people facing barriers to transport.

The funding will support a range of underrepresented and vulnerable groups, including female prisoners and ex-offenders, people with mental health conditions, individuals with mobility challenges, people recovering from addiction, students, primary and pre-school children and their families, and New Scots.

Among the successful projects is Parents for Future Scotland's Clean Air in Glasgow Schools initiative, which received £30,000 to encourage active travel to school and reduce air pollution around schools.

Arran Eco Savvy's Arran's E-bikes and Wee Bikes project was awarded £10,000 to expand access to e-bikes and provide affordable cycling opportunities for island residents.

Stephen Dornan, chairman of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, said: "This funding ensures the projects can operate effectively and deliver positive outcomes across the region – increasing access to bikes for those who need them most, and expanding opportunities for active, sustainable, and resilient transport for people across the SPT region."

Liquidator appointed to haulage company

A SCOTTISH road freight haulage company has been placed into liquidation.

A liquidator was appointed to the Glasgow-registered company after court action was taken by His Majesty's Revenue and Customs.

A petition was presented to Paisley Sheriff Court for HMRC in relation to AllAbout Transport Limited, listed at Manse Court.

It called for the company to be wound up and for a liquidator to be appointed.

James Stephen, of restructuring service BDO, was appointed liquidator, documents show.

The latest accounts for the company, posted in 2025 for the previous year, show capital and reserves in the red at £114,676, which had widened from £84,490 in the prior period.

A spokesperson for HMRC said it does not comment on individual businesses, but added: "We take a supportive approach to dealing with customers who have tax debts and only file winding-up petitions once we've exhausted all other options, in order to protect taxpayers' money."

The HMRC Debt Management and Banking Manual states that "time to pay" (TTP) is agreed with a customer and the arrangement "is subject to conditions".

Trump says deal to reopen Strait of Hormuz could come as early as this week

IRANIAN and Omani negotiators have finalised the draft deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and are awaiting a final approval from Iran's supreme leader, two regional officials told The Associated Press yesterday.

The officials, who were briefed on the negotiations, portrayed the potential deal as a temporary solution to the US-Iranian dispute over vessels' transit through the vital waterway.

They said it is tied to the agreement reached between the US and Iran in June aimed at ending the fighting and reopening the strait, but which ultimately collapsed.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the potential deal will pave the way for the US and Iran to resume negotiations to reach a final deal on Tehran's nuclear programme.

However, later yesterday a US State Department official said the second day of talks in Rome had ended early "due to events on the ground", but could continue today.

Earlier, the regional officials had said the possible agreement between Iran and Oman calls for ships to enter the Persian Gulf through an Iranian-controlled route and exit through a route controlled by Oman. Service fees would be charged for providing security and preserving the maritime environment, the officials said.

Oman and Iran have not officially commented.

Earlier, US President Donald Trump said a deal on the Strait of Hormuz could come as early as yesterday or today.

Mr Trump was asked by reporters travelling with him in California about a report on the Axios news site that an announcement on the Strait of Hormuz could be made yesterday. "It could happen. Tomorrow or the next day," he said, speaking on Tuesday evening. "A lot of progress has been made."

Oil prices eased on hopes of progress for a deal that would allow oil tankers to freely exit the Persian Gulf again and deliver crude around the world.

Brent crude, the international standard, slipped by 1.2% to $78.43 per barrel early yesterday.

The Trump administration has previously ruled out any deal that would give Iran control over the strait, which was an open international waterway before the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28. About one-fifth of the world's oil and natural gas passed through the strait, but shipping through the waterway has been reduced to a trickle at best by Iran's attacks since the start of the war.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei said on Tuesday that Tehran's talks with Oman were focused on "establishing safe inbound and outbound shipping lanes", routes that "uphold sovereign rights while also addressing the national security considerations of both Iran and Oman".

'Literally crumbling': Data shows extent of NHS repairs

Continued from Page 1

Scottish Conservative MSP Miles Briggs.

When buildings are rated as Category C for conditions, it means they are considered to be in a poor condition with "major defects" identified.

Infrastructure and equipment rated in the most severe category – D – is considered unacceptable, with the building in urgent need of repair.

The Scottish Government did not break the percentage down to determine how much of the estate is considered at risk of failure.

The Health Secretary then stated that 26% of NHS Scotland's estate was assessed as having a functional suitability rating of C or D.

Category C means the building is only partially suitable, with the layout affecting how effectively services can be delivered, while Category D is considered unsuitable with a risk to patient safety.

It is a deterioration of around five percentage points since 2020.

The Scottish Government said there were "challenges" within cost and affordability of the NHS.

Comparative figures are not routinely made public. However, in 2020, 29% of the estate was considered to be Category C or D in condition, showing a deterioration.

But there has been an improvement on functional suitability in five years, decreasing from 31% in 2020.

Mr Briggs, MSP for the Edinburgh and Lothians East region, said: "These shocking figures are a damning indictment of the SNP's mismanagement of Scotland's NHS estate.

"It is disgraceful that so many buildings across the country are in such a dire state after two decades of SNP rule. Our NHS is literally crumbling under the SNP.

"Their failures to deliver the infrastructure required for the modern age could potentially be putting patients and staff at risk.

"They deserve to be working and treated in buildings that are fit for purpose, rather than falling into total disrepair.

"Angela Constance, as the SNP's latest Health Secretary, needs to urgently get a grip on this situation.

"She must come clean as to why the estate is in such poor condition and outline a plan that will bring the estate up to scratch as quickly as possible."

The Scottish Government put all plans to build new hospitals, surgeries and a network of treatment centres on hold in 2024 due to significant financial constraints. However, ministers insisted essential maintenance would be prioritised.

That same year, NHS Scotland identified a maintenance backlog of £1.5 billion, including £59 million of high-risk projects and £466m of "significant" issues.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde has the largest maintenance backlog, at an estimated cost of £673m, followed by NHS Grampian on £214m and NHS Tayside on £124m.

A Scottish Government spokeswoman said: "Cost and affordability remain key challenges, with Scotland's capital block grant set to reduce in real terms by 5.7% by 2029-30.

"This is compounded by historic real-terms cuts and sustained high construction inflation."

The spokeswoman added: "We are already working with all health boards to develop a whole system NHS infrastructure plan to support continued, safe and effective use of existing facilities as well as determination of longer-term investment priorities."

In response to Mr Briggs, Ms Constance said that condition and functional suitability assessments were undertaken and recorded for individual buildings within the NHS estate.

But the Health Secretary said that the Scottish Government did not routinely hold information on the individual numbers of buildings assessed.

In 2024-25, Audit Scotland found that capital spending on infrastructure fell by 5.5% in a year, representing a 22% real-terms reduction since 2020-21.

The figures come after GPs warned the Scottish Government to reconsider plans to open more walk-in clinics as figures revealed they had failed to end the 8am rush.

Medics warned the GP walk-in clinics were taking funding away from other areas of the NHS, with just 6,792 patients assessed since February this year.

More than one-third of NHS Scotland's estate has major defects, it has been revealed

> "It is disgraceful that so many buildings across the country are in such a dire state

Polanski says fossil fuel producers must pay for firefighting helicopters

Green Party leader Zack Polanski spoke yesterday

FOSSIL fuel producers should be forced to pay for firefighting helicopters following the outbreak of blazes in the UK, the Green Party's leader has said.

Zack Polanski made the plea yesterday as he warned: "We are facing the biggest threat to this country since the Second World War."

He also urged Prime Minister Andy Burnham to "be truthful, be brave" and block new drilling for oil and gas in the North Sea, including in the Jackdaw and Rosebank fields off the Scottish coast.

He was joined on stage in central London by BBC Springwatch presenter Chris Packham, who called on policymakers to "criminalise irresponsible journalism" and to put in place a wildfire warning system.

Several wildfires have broken out in the UK over recent weeks, with large blazes at Dunwich Heath in Suffolk, Llanwonno in the Rhondda Valleys, South Wales, and the Cairngorms National Park.

Mr Polanski said since the blazes, ministers had produced "no emergency briefings, no new plan and precious little detail about how this government will protect people from the crisis".

He warned that "the sheer scale of the devastation is hard to comprehend" but added: "We need to look it in the face because this is only a taster of what's to come if we don't act now.

"We need a robust wildfire prevention strategy, a fire service with the resources it needs to tackle blazes when they come.

"And that must include firefighting helicopters when needed and not again ever seeing the shocking sight of requiring a charity to step in to contract a private firm to help fight fires.

"This should all be funded by taxing the fossil fuel giants who are profiting from fuelling these infernos."

Mr Polanski also called for water companies to be taken "into public hands" because "money is flowing out of our hands into the pockets of shareholders, just like water is flowing out of those companies' leaky pipes in the middle of a drought".

Speaking as if to Mr Burnham, the Green Party leader also said: "I hope you will have the courage to be truthful, be brave and hold firm to your party's commitment to no new oil and gas drilling in the North Sea, including Rosebank and Jackdaw.

"Some will say we can't afford to make these changes. These last few weeks are showing we can't afford not to – we are facing an existential threat."

Mr Packham said: "Is there a public wellbeing system in place which will tell people when there's a risk of wildfire, so that they can be prepared to evacuate and have evacuation plans in place?

"Well, do you know what? There is. It's available to the fire and rescue service but it isn't available to the public because it's deemed to be unreliable."

The presenter and naturalist continued: "We've got to address the mis- and disinformation and we've got to do that with positive information campaigns.

"We've got to sort out the media.

"I've been fantasising we could perhaps criminalise climate denial – we should certainly criminalise irresponsible journalism."

Man who tried to murder ex-partner on Edinburgh street in front of child jailed

A MAN who tried to murder his ex-partner by repeatedly stabbing her in front of their daughter on a street has been jailed for seven-and-a-half years.

Osarenkhoe Atutie, 26, previously admitted the attack on Victory Atutie on Duke Street in the Leith area of Edinburgh on November 11 last year.

The attack ended when three bystanders ran over and held Atutie until the emergency services arrived. Ms Atutie was left with 12 separate injuries and was taken to hospital where she was found to have suffered a collapsed lung.

Lord Cubie imposed a nine-year extended sentence on Atutie when he appeared at the High Court in Glasgow yesterday, comprising seven-and-a-half years in custody and 18 months of supervision on licence upon release.

The judge said: "She could have died as a result of your actions. It is through a combination of luck and the intervention of three passers-by that she survived. That the attack took place in front of your daughter is an aggravating factor. You seem to have a limited appreciation of the long-term effects this will have on your partner and child."

He imposed a non-harassment order of indefinite duration on Atutie, banning him from approaching, contacting or attempting to contact Ms Atutie.

Atutie admitted the attempted murder at a hearing at the High Court in Edinburgh last month, during which the court was told the couple had got married in Nigeria before coming the UK, where they had a daughter. They initially lived in London but following a "breakdown" in the relationship, Ms Atutie moved to Edinburgh with the child.

On November 11, 2025, Ms Atutie had been taking her daughter to a doctor's appointment when the 26-year-old approached them

The court heard Atutie came up to them and lifted the cover of the buggy before giving his daughter a hug. He then told Ms Atutie: "I brought a knife, I will show you."

Giving an account of the incident at the hearing last month, prosecutor Catriona MacLeod said Ms Atutie then continued walking, with Atutie alongside her.

At one point, Ms Atutie tried to get the attention of a man standing nearby, shouting: "He's going to hurt me, he's going to hurt me."

However, the man did not act, telling police afterwards Atutie had seemed "calm".

Ms MacLeod said Atutie then attacked Ms Atutie, telling the court he "grabbed her hair and repeatedly stabbed her in the head and body".

Following the attack, Ms Atutie was taken to hospital where she was found to have a collapsed lung.

Defence advocate Jonny Campbell, representing Atutie, said. "He was struggling with his mental health at the time of the incident. That does not justify his actions."

He also said there is a significant chance Atutie will be deported.

Watchdog clashes with FM over 'Salmond files'

Exclusive
Martin Williams

SCOTLAND'S secrecy regulator locked horns with First Minister John Swinney after accusing him of giving MSPs the wrong account of the Scottish Government's handling of the Alex Salmond files.

Correspondence seen by The Herald reveals Scottish Information Commissioner David Hamilton wrote directly to the First Minister insisting he correct the Holyrood record after disputing claims ministers had been only "just over four weeks" late complying with a legally binding order to release documents linked to the long-running Alex Salmond affair.

In a letter headed Error in the Parliamentary Record, Mr Hamilton said the First Minister had understated by more than a week how long the Scottish Government took to comply with the legally binding disclosure order.

The exchange at the end of March came as the commissioner was already questioning whether ministers had fully complied with an earlier disclosure ruling after Court of Session proceedings raised fresh questions over whether all relevant legal advice had been released.

The Scottish Government has confirmed it does not believe the First Minister's statement was inaccurate, telling The Herald: "The First Minister's comments to Parliament required no change to the official report to be made."

The exchange formed part of a wider breakdown in relations between the commissioner and the Scottish Government over the files.

The commissioner confirmed it could launch a formal intervention into ministers' handling of the case, once outstanding litigation concludes.

The files also show how the commissioner admitted he had taken the government "on trust" that all relevant legal advice had been released.

The Salmond files comprise hundreds of internal government documents, legal opinions and official communications linked to ministers' handling of the fallout from the unlawful investigation into Alex Salmond.

Ministers fought for years to keep many of the papers secret, while campaigners argued they could reveal how one of the biggest political scandals since devolution unfolded.

The row with Mr Swinney began after Labour MSP Katy Clark questioned the First Minister during First Minister's Questions about delays in releasing another batch of documents.

Former first minister Alex Salmond Picture: PA

Mr Swinney told MSPs the Scottish Government had been "just over four weeks" late complying with one of the commissioner's legally binding decision notices.

Mr Hamilton immediately challenged that account. Writing to the First Minister, he said: "The notice required a response by 15 January 2026. The first version of released information was not however published until 24 February 2026. This represents a delay of five-and-a-half weeks, not four."

He added: "I am drawing this to your attention so that the parliamentary record may be corrected."

Rather than amend the record, Mr Swinney defended what he had told Parliament.

The First Minister replied that he had been referring to a later date contained in correspondence warning ministers formal non-compliance procedures would begin unless the documents were released. He wrote: "In describing the delay as just over four weeks, I was referring to the period between your deadline of 22 January and the publication of the material on 24 February 2026. On that basis, I am satisfied that my statement was correct."

But Mr Hamilton refused to back down.

In a final letter, he stressed that the legal deadline contained in his decision notice could not be altered by subsequent correspondence.

He wrote: "The compliance date of 15 January was set in my Decision Notice – this is a legal document and, once issued, only the court can amend."

The commissioner concluded: "The fact remains that the release of the information was five-and-a-half weeks late, not four."

Earlier that month, Mr Hamilton wrote to Permanent Secretary Joe Griffin requesting an urgent meeting after raising concerns over fresh redactions to documents ministers had agreed to release, unanswered questions over compliance with an earlier disclosure ruling, and what he described as the government's increasingly troubled handling of the case.

> "This represents a delay of five-and-a-half weeks, not four

In one of the strongest criticisms made by Scotland's transparency watchdog, Mr Hamilton wrote: "The disjoint[ed] and chaotic nature of Scottish Government's responses are troubling and merit further investigation to ascertain whether I need to open a third intervention, this time at the Scottish Government's cost."

Asked by The Herald whether that remained under consideration, the commissioner's office confirmed it "remains a possibility" once the outstanding legal proceedings have concluded.

The correspondence also reveals why Mr Hamilton had begun questioning whether ministers had fully complied with an earlier legally binding disclosure order.

Following Court of Session proceedings, Mr Hamilton said he had been unable to inspect the withheld legal advice because he had no power to compel ministers to produce it. Instead, he accepted the government's assurances that everything covered by his decision had been released.

He wrote: "I took the authority on trust that it had fully complied by releasing all relevant legal advice to the applicant."

Mr Griffin rejected any suggestion ministers had failed to comply with the commissioner's rulings.

He said ensuring compliance with the court process had been ministers' "absolute priority throughout this matter" and said more than 700 documents, running to over 4,500 pages, had been disclosed and published by the Scottish Government.

A Scottish Government spokesman said: "The Scottish Government acknowledges and respects the role of the Scottish Information Commissioner and has a strong record in responding to requests for information as part of Scotland's freedom of information laws which are the strongest in the UK."

COMMENT AT HERALDSCOTLAND.COM

Rainfall 'may not see relief' after heat

HEAVY rain which could cause flooding in parts of Scotland is unlikely to provide the relief that is needed after exceptionally dry weather, experts have warned.

A cluster of heavy, slow-moving showers and storms were set to roll across eastern Scotland, with the potential for flash floods and impacts to transport networks, the Met Office has said.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (Sepa) has issued several flood alerts, but has underlined that heavy rain, after dry weather, can cause flooding without the "sustained recovery" needed.

The agency extended its restrictions on companies who usually take water from the environment, due to the continued water scarcity.

Shona McConnell, Sepa's head of compliance, said: "It may seem surprising to be talking about water scarcity when heavy rain is falling, or flood alerts are in place. But the two can happen at the same time.

"After a prolonged period of dry weather, a spell of heavy rain can cause localised flooding without providing the sustained recovery that rivers and catchments need.

"We will continue to carefully assess the impact of rainfall on a daily basis to ensure that restrictions are appropriate."

Companies facing the abstraction restrictions include Fisheries Management Scotland, NFU Scotland, the Scotch Whisky Association and Scottish Golf.

ADVERTORIAL

Retail Trust is shaping the future of retirement with communities that promote independence, wellbeing and social connection in later life

Retail Trust is streets ahead with a new vision for retirement living

FOR almost 200 years, the Retail Trust has been supporting people working in the retail industry through every stage of life. From wellbeing services and financial support to practical advice, the charity has helped generations of retail workers and their families navigate life's challenges.

That commitment extends into later life through the Retail Trust's retirement estates, which provide vibrant retirement communities where former retail colleagues can lead independent, safe and fulfilled lives.

More than simply offering accommodation, the estates combine homes surrounded by beautiful green spaces, community activities and tailored support to help residents remain active, connected and confident.

One of the charity's flagship communities is the Hugh Fraser Retirement Estate in Newton Mearns, who recently won a prestigious Scottish Civic Trust, My Place Award.

Set within beautiful, landscaped grounds, the estate – designed by Sir Basil Spence – was made possible through the generosity of legendary Scottish retailer Sir Hugh Fraser and continues to be supported by the Hugh Fraser Foundation.

Today, the estate is looking firmly to the future, with ambitious plans to further develop the site and create a model for modern retirement living.

One example is that as part of their plans, they hosted a forum on how robotics could be developed to support retirement communities, attended by industry experts, social care experts and of course their residents.

We spoke to the Retail Trust managing director for property and residential services Lawrence Coen about why retirement communities have an increasingly important role to play.

Above and left, Hugh Fraser Retirement Estate in Newton Mearns, recently won a prestigious Scottish Civic Trust, My Place Award

Retail Trust's Lawrence Coen

Retirement living is changing rapidly. What should the future look like?
Lawrence Coen: "The future of retirement living is about enabling people to continue living life on their own terms. Too often, conversations about ageing focus on decline or dependency. The reality is that people want to remain independent, active and connected for as long as possible.

"Good retirement communities should give people the confidence and opportunity to keep living well. This in turn eases the pressure on the NHS and social care system too."

How does the Hugh Fraser Retirement Estate reflect that vision?
Lawrence Coen: "We don't just provide housing; our focus is on creating a community where people feel safe, valued and able to thrive.

"We combine high-quality homes with green spaces, social opportunities and practical support, giving residents peace of mind while preserving their independence. We know we can do more to ensure residents now and, in the future, receive the very best. That is why we are hosting events and forums to start to look at what the best retirement housing for the future could and will look like."

Q: Why is this conversation becoming increasingly important?
Lawrence Coen: "We're living longer, and that's something to celebrate. But it also means we need to rethink how we design housing and communities for later life.

"If we invest in prevention, well-being and social connection rather than waiting until people need intensive care, we can help more people enjoy healthier, happier lives for longer."

Q: What role do you hope the Hugh Fraser Retirement Estate will play?
Lawrence Coen: "I want people to see the estate as a practical example of what's possible. Over the coming months we'll be bringing together industry experts, policymakers, healthcare professionals, housing specialists and, most importantly, our residents to shape a long-term vision for the estate.

"Collaboration will be central to creating something that can inspire retirement communities across Scotland and beyond."

The Retail Trust is very clear there is an opportunity to create something genuinely transformational for future generations.

They wants to hear from philanthropists, businesses, foundations and experts who share their ambition to redefine later-life living.

To find out more about retirement living, go online at retailtrust.org.uk

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Prices fall in Scots property hotspot

A TOWN in Fife has been revealed as a surprise property hotspot despite house prices falling.

Buyers are paying a premium to snap up homes in Dunfermline, with strong demand for houses at the more affordable end of the market.

The city's average property price dropped by 6.8% year on year, most likely due to a large reduction in the sale of four-bedroom houses.

However, growth is being driven by a sharp rise in sales of smaller, cheaper two and three-bedroom properties.

Dunfermline's demand remains especially strong, with buyers paying one of the highest premiums, at 103.5% of the Home Report value on average.

Dunfermline was also home to the cheapest property type on the market, according to the latest Edinburgh Solicitors Property Centre (ESPC) House Price Report, with one-bedroom flats selling for an average of £106,114, more than £50,000 cheaper than Edinburgh's most affordable alternative.

Properties in the city are selling at an exceptionally fast rate, with homes going under offer in a median time of 13 days.

The latest ESPC report found that average selling prices increased by 2.7% over the past year across the regions it covers, reaching £296,298.

In East Fife, the average sale price rose by 5.4%, while East and West Lothian experienced substantial increases of 8.2% and 9.5% respectively, indicating rising interest in higher-priced properties.

External factors such as geopolitical uncertainty and economic instability, including fluctuating mortgage rates, appear to be affecting confidence in the market.

Sales volumes dropped by 7% year on year, although May to July 2025 was an especially busy period, which may be skewing figures, the report said.

Italian firm acquires Scots cable facility

AN Italian cable company has acquired a training facility in North Ayrshire.

Prysmian was founded in 1879 as the cabling division of Pirelli, which sold the business to Goldman Sachs in 2005 at which point it was renamed Prysmian.

It has announced it has acquired the established Scotland-based training facility for high-voltage cable jointers in North Ayrshire, bringing more than 20 apprentice jointers and experienced training staff into the organisation.

Prysmian will support installation and inspection, maintenance and repair operations in the UK and across Europe, helping to ensure the availability of highly trained personnel involved in the delivery of the underground and subsea high voltage transmission cable projects that provide critical power grid infrastructure as part of the energy transition.

Raymond Petrus, chief executive of Prysmian UK said: "This expertise is in Scotland, the home of so much vital UK offshore wind development, and where so many major clean energy projects are developing, and this complements our already strong manufacturing, logistical and commercial footprint across England and Wales as the UK's number one cable player."

Aberdeen schools set for £27m upgrade programme over next three years

DOZENS of schools across Aberdeen are set to benefit from a £27 million investment programme aimed at upgrading buildings and improving facilities.

Aberdeen City Council has approved £27.164m through its Condition & Suitability Programme, which will fund repairs and improvements across council buildings, including the city's school estate.

The plans were approved by the finance and resources committee on August 5, with projects scheduled to take place over the next three financial years.

Work will include improvements to classrooms, kitchens, lighting, ventilation systems, accessibility, safety measures and general building condition across primary and secondary schools.

Bridge of Don Academy will receive a range of upgrades, including internal alterations to support community activities, changes to science labs, a new corridor, drama studio lighting improvements, kitchen ventilation upgrades, passenger lift replacement and additional teaching space.

Other planned projects include obsolete lighting replacement at Dyce Academy, flat roof repairs and refurbishment works at Harlaw Academy, and kitchen ventilation improvements at Northfield Academy. Abbotswell School will receive new entrance matting and acoustic flooring upgrades, while Brimmond School will have a new air handling unit installed.

Charleston School's CCTV system will be replaced, Cults School will continue toilet refurbishment works and receive kitchen and dining area upgrades, and Dyce School will benefit from new staff and pupil toilets alongside flooring replacements.

Flooding issues, fire alarm upgrades and boiler room access improvements will be addressed at Fernielea School, while Glashieburn School will begin the second phase of window and external door replacements.

Further projects include fencing replacements at Cornhill School, environmental improvements at Kirkhill School, drainage and tree root management at St Joseph's RC School, and boiler replacements at Quarryhill and Woodside schools.

The programme also includes wider safety and accessibility improvements, including enhanced security measures, upgraded fire alarm systems and improved visitor areas.

Councillor Alex McLellan, convener of the committee at Aberdeen City Council, said: "We are spending a huge amount maintaining and investing in our estate every year, including upgrades to school buildings, across the city.

"These works complement the larger school projects under way across the city, ensuring we continue to provide quality facilities for our communities and for our young people."

Gilruth defends government's response to Princes Street fire

Josh Pizzuto-Pomaco

JENNY Gilruth has defended the Scottish Government's response to the Princes Street fire during a visit to the scene of the blaze in Edinburgh.

Critics have accused ministers of turning a blind eye to the fire and the subsequent disruption to Edinburgh's tram network, which has been unable to serve the north and east of the city since July 9.

Yesterday, the Scottish Government announced that £5 million would be allocated to the local authority to help it deal with the impact of the fire on transport and businesses.

Speaking to reporters following crunch talks with City of Edinburgh Council leader Jane Meagher, the Deputy First Minister said: "This has been a constant programme of engagement between my officials and between Edinburgh council officials in relation to the support they wanted.

"And they were very specific about the support they wanted for local businesses and for making sure that building was kept safe."

However, the government did not comment publicly on the fire until three weeks afterwards, when The Herald asked if ministers would commit to creating an emergency funding package for Edinburgh.

A £10m pot was allocated to Glasgow City Council within a week of the Union Street fire in March.

By contrast, on July 28, a full 19 days after the blaze, a spokesperson told The Herald that the government was exploring "how we can best offer support to businesses affected following the fire on Princes Street".

Later that week, it was announced that Ms Gilruth would hold meetings with Ms Meagher and other council officials.

Pressed by The Herald about the negative public perception created by the government's silence, the Deputy First Minister said: "I hear the point. I think ultimately this is a matter for the council to lead on. So the government is working with the council at the behest of a request which came from the council.

"So we would expect the council as a relevant local authority to lead on this. I reflect on your points in relation to communication, but it is the case that behind the scenes we have been engaged throughout."

Edinburgh council leader Jane Meagher, left, chief planning officer David Givan, and Deputy First Minister Jenny Gilruth at the site

A number of MSPs had spoken out urging the Scottish Government to provide financial support for the city, which is set to welcome millions of people to the festivals this month despite a limited transport system.

"The Scottish Government was more than happy to find millions of pounds in the wake of the Glasgow fire. It should be considering similar action for Edinburgh," Conservative MSP Miles Briggs said last week.

"If we go into the Festival with this situation still ongoing, it will be a complete embarrassment for the city in front of the eyes of the world."

Green MSP for Edinburgh Central, Lorna Slater, added: "Ministers must work urgently with the council and affected businesses and commit to a fair recovery package for Edinburgh."

> "I'm disappointed that Glasgow seems to be more highly valued in a sense than we are

Following Ms Gilruth's visit, Ms Meagher said she was "disappointed" by the disparity in the funding package and suggested the government had acted more decisively in Glasgow because it has more SNP voters.

She told reporters: "I'm disappointed that Glasgow seems to be more highly valued in a sense than we are.

"But we are where we are. I'm grateful that we've got some money and we'll use it to serve the city of Edinburgh."

Ms Meagher also criticised First Minister John Swinney for not attending the meeting and sending Ms Gilruth instead.

"I'm extremely disappointed that the First Minister chose not to respond," she said, referring to a letter her office sent to Mr Swinney a week after the fire.

"Edinburgh is the capital city of this country. Edinburgh, equally importantly, is a driver of the Scottish economy.

"And if we don't get the attention that we deserve from the First Minister of this country, I think that's shameful."

Investigations into the cause of the fire continue.

The Herald revealed that a firm renting retail space on the ground floor of 109-112 Princes Street, which was set to be redeveloped as a Zedwell hotel, had failed to pay legally required non-domestic rates.

The London-based micro-company had been preceded in its lease by two other small companies, also based in the UK capital, both of whom appear not to have paid non-domestic rates or other taxes.

Furthermore, it emerged that building warrants had not been secured for the refitting of the former Debenhams department store into three individual shopfronts.

'Very disappointed' and 'shameful': Councillor's anger over fire fund for capital

Firefighters at the scene of the blaze on Princes Street

Josh Pizzuto-Pomaco

THE leader of Edinburgh City Council has suggested that politics played a role in the Scottish Government's response following the Princes Street fire last month.

Speaking after Deputy First Minister Jenny Gilruth pledged £5 million for the city's recovery efforts, Jane Meagher said she was "very disappointed".

Councillor Meagher said: "I think it's a disappointing signifier of the esteem, if you like, or the importance that Edinburgh has over Glasgow. And it's hard not to think that it might be political."

Asked to clarify what she meant, the Labour council leader said: "Well, if you look at where the support for the Scottish National Party lies, I think that answers your question."

Following a serious fire on Union Street in Glasgow in March, government ministers announced a £10m funding pot within a week of the blaze.

By contrast, the government did not publicly comment on the Princes Street fire until July 28, 19 days after the incident took place.

Ms Meagher said: "I'm disappointed that Glasgow seems to be more highly valued in a sense than we are. But we are where we are. I'm grateful that we've got some money and we'll use it to serve the city of Edinburgh."

She also criticised First Minister John Swinney for not responding to a letter sent to him requesting help on July 17.

"I wrote to the First Minister immediately following the fire and asked for a meeting and got no response," she told reporters.

"I sent a reminder or a further request for a meeting and that eventually resulted in the Deputy First Minister coming.

"I mean, I welcome her presence here," Ms Meagher added.

"I'm extremely disappointed that the First Minister chose not to respond. You know, Edinburgh is the capital city of this country. Edinburgh, equally importantly, is a driver of the Scottish economy.

"And if we don't get the attention that we deserve from the First Minister of this country, I think that's shameful.

Speaking after the funding announcement, Ms Gilruth defended the actions of the Scottish Government, saying that negotiations had taken place behind the scenes.

She said: "We've been working really closely with them since that time [July 17]. This has been a constant programme of engagement between my officials and between Edinburgh council officials in relation to the support they wanted.

"And they were very specific about the support they wanted for local businesses and for making sure that building was kept safe."

Since the blaze four weeks ago, trams have been unable to serve the north and east of the city due to the closure of Princes Street.

Ms Gilruth added: "A lot of things are going to take a lot longer. I think we have been able to make progress at relative pace, and I hear the challenge, but giving that assurance today is allowing the council to move forward and continue to engage with them over additional support that might be required."

Police arrest woman after four men stabbed in London's Covent Garden

A WOMAN has been arrested after four men were stabbed in Covent Garden in central London, police said.

Four people have been taken to a major trauma centre following the incident on Endell Street yesterday afternoon.

The Metropolitan Police said four men, aged 34, 39, 42 and 52, were found with stab wounds.

They were taken to hospital where two remain with injuries that are not believed to be life-threatening or life-changing.

The other two victims have been discharged.

A 47-year-old woman was arrested on suspicion of possession of an offensive weapon and assault, the force added.

She was taken into custody, where she remains.

The stabbing is believed to have been a mental health-related incident and a pair of scissors was recovered at the scene, the Metropolitan Police said.

A London Ambulance Service spokesperson said: "We sent an ambulance crew, a paramedic in a fast response car and an incident response officer. We also dispatched London's Air Ambulance."

The spokesperson added: "We treated four patients at the scene and took them all to a major trauma centre as a priority by road."

Police previously said three people had been stabbed in the incident.

However, in a statement, they later confirmed four people were found with stab wounds.

A large police cordon was put up from High Holborn to the St Mungo's homeless centre in Endell Street, where officers were speaking to people before they entered the building.

Restaurants near the cordon towards Long Acre continued business.

Matt Bishop, 42, who works at a consultancy firm next to the cordon, said he had seen a woman having a "stand-off" with three police officers and waving a weapon around.

He added that he did not see the stabbing but saw the woman running towards the crossroads and said she seemed "pretty incoherent".

Chief Superintendent Jason Stewart, who leads policing in the area, said: "Officers responded within minutes of this incident after receiving a number of reports.

"While still at an early stage of the investigation, we would like to reassure the community that we currently believe this to be an isolated, mental-health related incident."

He added: "A visible police presence will remain in the area while evidence is gathered at the scene and we thank the public for their understanding."

Members of the public with information about the incident have been asked to call police on 101 quoting CAD3449/05AUG.

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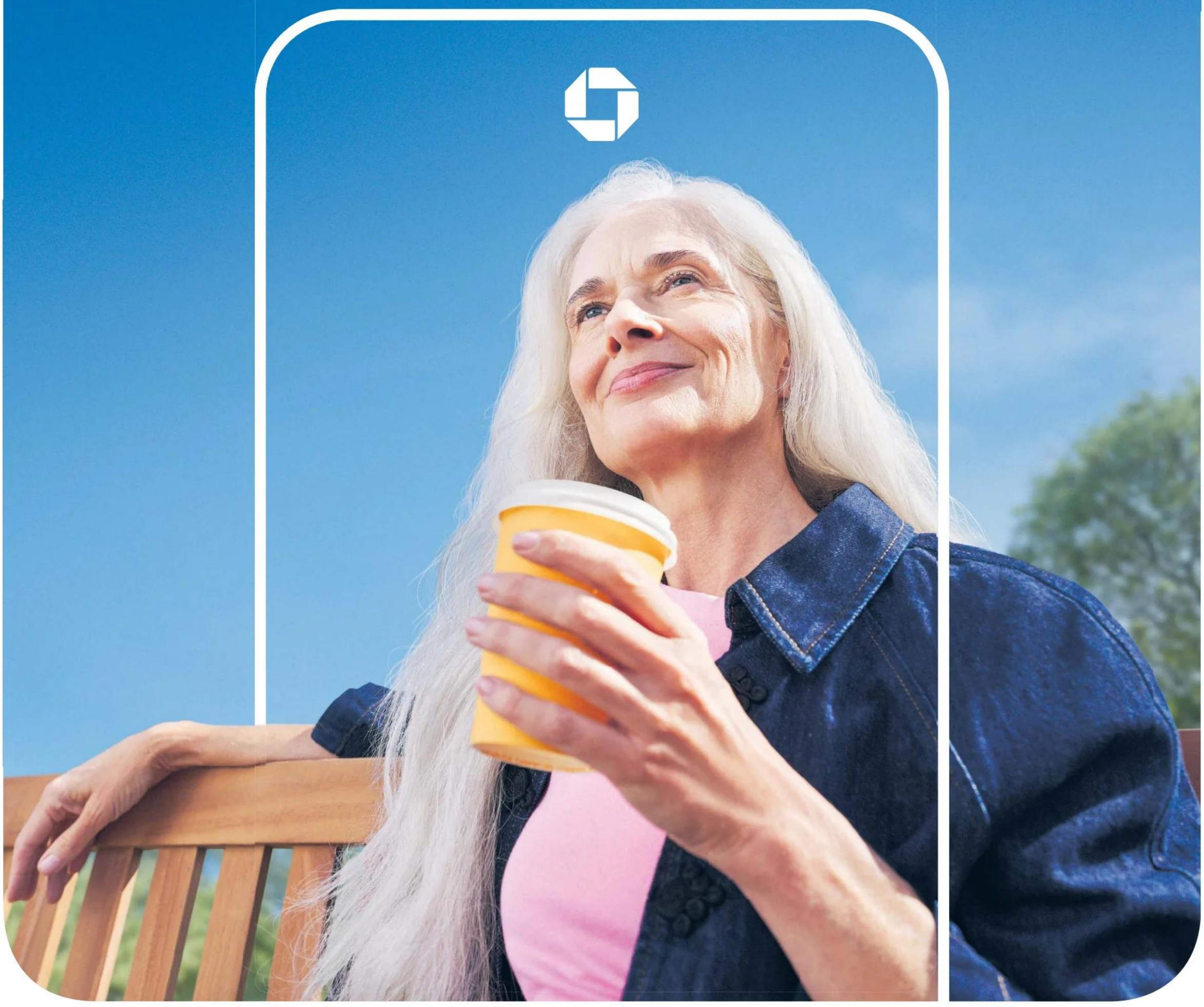

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Liquidator appointed to Scottish building company

Brian Donnelly

A LIQUIDATOR has been appointed to a Scottish building developer.

It comes after a court action by HMRC against the Glasgow-based company.

The appointment of the liquidator to Impact Contracts (Glasgow) Limited follows a petition to Glasgow Sheriff Court.

The petition related to the winding up of the company based at Craigton Industrial Estate.

The action in May called on parties with an interest to contact the court at the time.

A notice has been posted that Julie Tait of Grant Thornton UK Advisory & Tax has been appointed liquidator.

The most recent accounts for the firm showed there were five employees and capital reserves of £98,725 in 2024.

The firm posted assets of £328,155 and listed creditors with amounts falling due in one year at £247,184 along with accrued income.

A spokesperson for HMRC said it does not comment on individual businesses but added: "We take a supportive approach to dealing with customers who have tax debts and only file winding-up petitions once we've exhausted all other options, to protect taxpayers' money."

Bagpipe stars at Marymass

IRVINE'S World Cup piping sensations are heading to the town's Marymass festival along with musicians from the East Coast.

Fresh from becoming a viral sensation in Boston with the Tartan Army, Irvine's very own Bagpipe Brothers are heading to Marymass.

Noah Dickson, 14, Luca Dickson, 12, and Lleyton Hyndman, 13, showed the world their talents on the way to Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox baseball match after Scotland's opener against Haiti.

Spectators can catch them at the Marymass opening ceremony on August 13.

Meanwhile, organisers have also confirmed that the Saltire Street Band will take part in the Marymass Saturday Parade.

SpaceX rocket crash into Moon poses risk to future space travel, expert warns

THE crash of a SpaceX rocket part into the Moon poses a risk to the future of space travel, an expert has warned.

After launching a pair of lunar landers more than a year ago, the rocket's upper stage unintentionally slammed into the Moon yesterday.

If there are plans for missions to create industry, settlement or further research on the Moon, greater regulation is needed to prevent a repeat of the crash, Professor Hugh Lewis, a space safety expert at the University of Birmingham, said.

It is thought a 4,000kg section of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket made an impact with the Moon at around 7.35am BST.

The impact of the crash will provide valuable opportunity for scientific research but also exposes the need for greater provision to secure the safety of future missions to the Moon, Prof Lewis said.

"It speaks to an issue that is already there and is going to be getting worse in the future," he said.

"If the Moon becomes a true destination for us, with settlements, potentially industry, then that's going to require orbital infrastructure, lots of missions from Earth to the Moon.

"If we're increasing the population of spacecraft between the Earth and the Moon, then you end up with a chance of collision as well, in orbit."

Prof Lewis, who specialises in space debris and space situational awareness, said that given the Moon has a "non-uniform" gravitational field, abandoning material in its orbit carries a "very good chance" of a crash into the lunar surface.

Prof Lewis said: "SpaceX have been doing a tremendous job.

"But the real question is whether regulation needs to tighten, if we need new standards and guidelines to help us with missions that go to the Moon."

Castle in bloom

King Charles in the Walled Garden at the Castle and Gardens of Mey by the Pink Arbor as he begins his summer break in Scotland. During his time at the castle in Caithness, he planted the King's Rose in the gardens developed by his grandmother Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother

Ministers accused over 'sham' maternity review

Exclusive
Hannah Brown

SCOTTISH ministers have been accused of sidelining past maternity failures after choosing a forward-looking model for a national review that officials warned could be "improvement-focused, not investigatory", The Herald can reveal.

Internal papers show ministers were offered a choice between an investigation into historic harm, accountability and redress, similar to major maternity inquiries elsewhere in the UK, and a review centred on the future design of services.

They chose principles focused on the latter, prompting political opposition warnings that bereaved families and women who have suffered serious harm could be denied answers, and that catastrophic mistakes could be repeated. The review has since been branded a "complete sham".

The documents emerged shortly after The Herald revealed that Scotland's Patient Safety Commissioner, Karen Titchener, had urged ministers to scrap the Scottish Maternity and Neonatal Taskforce.

The choice around the type of review was set out in an internal ministerial submission dated May 27, obtained by The Herald through freedom of information legislation.

It asked Health Secretary Angela Constance and ministerial colleagues to choose between two approaches ahead of the maternity review's announcement on June 11.

One was a backward-looking investigation into "what has gone wrong in the past", including specific incidents, harm suffered by women and babies, and wider systemic failures.

Officials said it would focus on "accountability, learning from errors, and redress", and could include detailed case reviews, witness testimony and scrutiny of historic clinical practice.

They compared it with Baroness Valerie Amos's review of maternity services in England and the work of Donna Ockenden, whose investigations have examined the experiences of individual families in depth.

The alternative was a forward-looking exercise focused on how maternity services should be designed and improved in future.

However, officials in the Scottish Government's Maternity, Neonatal and IVF Unit cautioned that the forward-looking option could be "improvement-focused, not investigatory", producing strategic recommendations rather than findings about responsibility for past harm.

Crucially, the first model could have examined what happened to individual women and babies and whether anyone should be held accountable. The second is primarily concerned with how Scotland's maternity system should operate in future.

The governing principles published by the Scottish Government on June 11 closely mirror that second model, stating that the review "will be forward-looking".

They do not explicitly require it to investigate individual deaths or serious injuries, call witnesses, determine responsibility or recommend redress.

That leaves bereaved parents and women who have suffered serious harm without a guarantee that their cases will be examined in the manner associated with the Amos and Ockenden investigations.

Professor Christine McCourt, the independent chair, will determine how the review is conducted and can commission additional evidence.

However, its current principles do not expressly provide for a case-by-case investigation of historic failures.

The released documents do not show ministers explicitly rejecting the backward-looking option because key passages detailing their decisions have been redacted.

However, notes from a ministerial meeting on May 28, one day after the options were presented, refer to a "forward-looking approach" with improvement as a "key element".

The principles announced on June 11 then confirmed that the review "will be forward-looking".

The controversy follows The Herald's investigation into maternity care, which exposed concerns over safety, staffing, access to services and failures to learn from serious incidents across Scotland.

It revealed NHS Scotland paid almost £100 million in maternity and obstetric negligence claims between 2020-21 and 2024-25, accounting for 43% of all NHS compensation payments over the four most recent comparable years.

A later Herald investigation found NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde recorded 736 serious adverse events in maternity and neonatal services between 2019 and 2025, including 406 involving a death.

Scottish Labour health spokeswoman Jackie Baillie said: "The purpose of this review must be to improve maternity care in Scotland – but we cannot do that without an unflinching look at what has gone wrong so far."

Helen McDade, Reform UK's Scottish health spokeswoman, said the review has been "exposed as a complete sham".

"They promised to 'lift the lid' on failures, yet they have deliberately sidestepped a true investigatory review and instead opted for an 'improvement-focused' talking shop," she added.

Scottish Conservative health spokesman Miles Briggs said the decision risked leaving serious failures unexplored.

He said: "Ministers must come clean on why they have taken this short-sighted decision."

Scottish Liberal Democrat leader Alex Cole-Hamilton questioned how ministers could deliver meaningful reform without examining previous failings.

The review will examine staffing, culture, governance, patient flow, rural services and the experiences of women at greater risk of poor outcomes.

Prof McCourt accepted the chair's role on June 10 and is due to take up the appointment in September. The review should take nine months, with its final report published one month later – placing publication around July 2027 on the current timetable. A Scottish Government spokesperson said: "An improvement-focused independent review will identify the systemic changes needed to strengthen services and achieve better outcomes for women, babies and families."

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Sentencing is postponed for assault on girl

THE sentencing of a Bulgarian man found guilty of assaulting a 12-year-old girl during an incident in Dundee last year has been postponed until September.

Ilia Belov, 22, was also convicted of behaving in a "threatening or abusive manner" towards four girls, all of whom were aged between 12 and 14, following a trial at Dundee Sheriff Court earlier this year.

Belov's sister Nadjedzha Belova, 20, also pleaded guilty to one charge of assaulting a 13-year-old girl in the incident, which happened in the Lochee area of the city in August 2025.

The sentencing of the pair was scheduled to take place yesterday but was adjourned as criminal social justice work reports had not been completed.

Sheriff Timothy Niven-Smith said that it was "unfortunate that either of the accused did not inform their agent that a report was not conducted".

He however referenced their ages and that English is not their first language.

Sentencing of the pair will now take place on September 8, following the two-day trial at Dundee Sheriff Court.

‘Only a matter of time before someone is killed’ by far right violence

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Campaigners from Stand Up To Racism counter-protest at the event on July 25 Picture: PA

Andrew Learmonth

IT is “only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or even killed” as a result of the far right violence in Glasgow , an MSP has warned.

Speaking at a press conference organised by solicitor Aamer Anwar, Labour’s Monica Lennon described the situation as an “emergency” and said the First Minister should consider recalling Parliament.

Violence erupted at Glasgow Green on July 25 during an anti-immigration rally, with a large group making their way into the city centre.

Some 15 people were arrested for offences including assault, breach of the peace, obstruction and resisting arrest.

Several weapons were recovered, which police said indicated some attending had arrived with the “intention for pre-meditated disorder, violence and intimidation”.

Video footage showed attendees performing Nazi salutes and chanting “send them home”, while placards read “stop the boats”. One man was filmed saying he was “a Nazi and I love it”.

One viral video on social media showed delivery driver Muhammad Jawad Yaqoob being attacked as he picked up an order from the Palm Tree Kitchen on Bridge Street.

Mr Yaqoob was at the press conference and told The Herald he had been left scared by the incident and said it had had a “very serious impact” on his life.

“I went to my job and received a delivery, then I went out of the shop, and around 150 to 200 people attacked me and started abusing me. Some people told me to go back to my home, and some people called me ‘brownie’, Pakistani, Asian. One guy threw a traffic cone and it hit me, so I went back into the shop to protect my life.”

He said when he opened social media he saw the video had gone viral.

“I was very scared and upset because the video had reached my home country too. I just want justice,” he added.

Mr Anwar told the press conference: “Sooner or later, where the manner in which these individuals are carrying on, somebody will be seriously hurt. And the message is loud and clear, not just from us, not from the wider community, but also from Police Scotland, that those individuals that want to do this will be found.”

Speakers at the press conference offered starkly different assessments of how Police Scotland had handled the recent unrest, with some praising the force’s restraint and others accusing it of taking a two-tier approach.

Mr Anwar struck the most supportive tone, saying he had worked closely with ACC Catriona Paton and ACC Alan Waddell as they “tried to navigate the difficult task of facilitating the right to peaceful protest while ensuring that public safety was paramount”.

He said officers had been stretched by the Commonwealth Games, and defended the force’s use of existing powers.

Mr Anwar said Police Scotland had “our support to take robust action against the far right”, insisting no new legislation was needed.

“There is no requirement for any further laws,” he said. “We have sufficient powers as it exists,” including to pursue those giving Nazi salutes.

However, Zamard Zahid of Stand Up To Racism, said that on the day of the Unite the Clans rally, “neo-Nazi groups travelled to Glasgow, they were intent on causing violence, yet the police did nothing to prevent them coming”.

She argued: “Police Scotland’s actions that day demonstrate that placating racists and fascists, by allowing them an open space to gather, ignoring Nazi salutes and racist and sexist chants, leads to the horrific racist rampage we saw through the city centre.”

Ms Lennon said there was already robust legislation in place. “I think the issue is around enforcement, and the police are under a lot of pressure too.

“But if we don’t have sufficient legislation, then we have a Scottish Government who can let the country know that action will be required.

“There is the option to recall Parliament if we feel that there’s an emergency and we have to get serious. We’ll be back in a few weeks. But if there is a deficiency in the law, we need to hear from the Scottish Government on that.”

Asked explicitly if she was saying this is an emergency and that Parliament should be recalled, Ms Lennon replied:

> “I was very scared and upset because the video had reached my home country too. I just want justice

“Absolutely, yes, it’s an emergency. We’ve heard about the violence, we’ve heard about the attacks, the fear and intimidation. It’s escalating. It’s only a matter of time before someone is seriously injured or even killed. So I don’t know what the Scottish Government are waiting for.”

Talat Yaqoob of Women Against the Far Right Scotland said there had been a spate of attacks on people of colour in recent months.

“This is the terrorising of communities,” she said. “How far does this need to go before it’s called an emergency and responded to as an emergency by the Scottish Government, by local councils and by police?” she asked.

The conference was also addressed by Green and LibDem politicians, but there was no representative from the Scottish Government. Mr Anwar said the SNP were invited but were unable to make anyone available.

Mr Anwar confirmed that Reform UK figures, including Glasgow councillor Thomas Kerr, were not invited to the press conference.

In a statement after the conference, Mr Kerr said: “The hypocrisy of the political establishment lecturing us all side by side in a plush Glasgow hotel won’t be lost on the public.”

Glasgow council told to take urgent action on sexual violence in city centre

Rose Kendall

GLASGOW City Council has been urged to take “urgent concrete action” to protect women from sexual violence in the city centre.

Human rights lawyer Aamer Anwar said the local authority had failed to invest in basic safety measures such as street lighting and CCTV, despite finding £20 million to spend on the redevelopment of George Square.

The comments came during a press conference organised in response to the recent far-right violence in the city.

Police Scotland figures released under freedom of information show a mixed picture in the G1 and G2 postcode areas covering Glasgow city centre.

The total number of recorded violent and serious crimes, which includes attempted murder, robbery, serious assault, rape and sexual assault, fell from 494 in 2000 to 295 in 2025.

But that overall decline has been driven almost entirely by steep falls in robbery and serious assault.

Recorded rape and sexual assault offences moved in the opposite direction over the same period, rising from a combined 36 incidents in 2000 to 164 in 2025.

Glasgow has seen a number of self-styled night patrol groups emerge in the past year, whose members say they are protecting local women and children.

Mr Anwar and other speakers at the conference rejected that framing, describing the patrols as operating “under the pretence of protecting women from sexual violence” while “targeting innocent people.”

However, the solicitor said the city centre was not safe enough.

Mr Anwar said: “Put simply, if you can spend £20m on George Square, where is the lighting for alleyways in the city centre?

“Where is the free night-time transport for women? Where is the deploying of night street wardens? Where are the gates in alleyways? Where are the street cameras for each city centre alleyway?”

Glasgow Southside Green MSP Holly Bruce said night bus provision should be a priority, as well as better street lighting and community patrols so that women can feel seen and safe.

She said: “We need to empower women to utilise our city centre, not see them as protected people. They should be able to be mobile within their own city and should be able to do that freely.”

A Glasgow City Council spokesperson said the authority works with Police Scotland on city centre safety and is recruiting additional staff to allow public space CCTV to be monitored around the clock.

They said: “We are currently recruiting additional staff that will allow public space CCTV to be monitored 24 hours per day.

“City centre lanes are almost exclusively privately owned and any new infrastructure intended to improve safety and security, such as gates, lighting or CCTV, would require the support of owners

“We liaise closely with the recently formed City Centre Business Improvement District and we know their initial programme has a focus on safety and environmental improvements.”

Meanwhile, Roz Foyer, general secretary of the STUC, said the framing of far-right gatherings and vigilante patrols as being about protecting women and girls was “absolutely sickening” given what she described as growing misogyny in Scotland

She said: “Over 200 calls a day to police about domestic violence incidents, a woman a month dying from a violent crime in our country – that is unacceptable.

“We have to tackle misogyny in our culture and hold all violent men to account.”

Claudia Macdonald-Bruce, director of Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis, said her organisation had been fighting against male sexual violence for 50 years.

She said nine out of 10 women it supports every day are abused by someone they know, and that sexual violence spikes for women and girls at home when men feel frustrated that their football team did not win, and yet it also spikes when men are celebrating because their team did win.

Kintyre hotel plans approved

PLANS for the refurbishment and extension of a Kintyre hotel which has been closed for decades have been given the go-ahead.

The proposal for the former five-storey Keil Hotel also sought planning permission for a garden store, office, laundry and accommodation units, along with leisure facilities and an outdoor seating area.

The hotel is understood to have been unused since the early 1990s, having opened as a hotel after the Second World War following use as a military hospital.

Argyll and Bute Council has now given planning permission for the works.

A council officer said in a handling report: “The hotel remains the dominant feature within the site and has historically formed a landmark building visible from both land and sea.

“This application seeks detailed planning permission for the comprehensive refurbishment, extension and redevelopment of the long-established Keil Hotel together with associated tourism infrastructure.

“The development seeks not only to restore the building to active use but also to provide modern visitor facilities to ensure the long-term commercial viability of the enterprise.”

Castle’s gate to get refresh

A HISTORIC gate at Falkland Castle in Fife is set to be given a refresh after listed building consent was granted.

The National Trust for Scotland had applied for permission for repairs and the reinstatement of entrance gates ironmongery, the repainting of gates and repairs to masonry.

A report by Fife Council planners explained that the works were confined to the decorative entrance gates at the southern entrance to the palace grounds.

Approving the application, planners said work represented an “appropriate conservation led” intervention.

They added: “The proposals would preserve the character, appearance and significance of the Category B listed structure.”

Award-winning chef opens new restaurant in St Andrews

Sarah Campbell

AN award-winning chef has opened a new restaurant in St Andrews after weeks of renovation work to convert a former BrewDog pub.

Dean Banks welcomed his first customers to Amber, serving a menu of Mediterranean flavours with a South American twist, inspired by his Brazilian wife Isabela and the couple’s shared love of Portugal.

Having taken a hands-on approach to the refurbishment, he said: “Working on the units myself has always been a big part of how we work, whether on a new spot or maintaining existing venues.

“I design everything, so it makes sense to me that I carry out a lot of the work – the things I can safely do to a good standard, of course.

“For electrics, plumbing, all that, we get the experts. But I’m pretty handy, and I really enjoy creating, whether it’s food or the arrivals desk at Amber, which I am quite proud of.”

He added: “I’ve been here every day now for weeks, and I have really enjoyed it – most of the time. However, I am excited to get back to cooking, although the team have been incredible while I’ve been in tradesman mode.”

Chef Dean Banks and his son Felix at the opening of Amber

With the South Street site needing a total overhaul, Banks asked his social media followers for help to determine the look and style of the new restaurant, ensuring he was creating a space “in keeping with what locals want”.

“It’s been great having input as we went, so we know that those who spoke up are happy with what we are doing,” said Banks, whose other locations include Haar in St Andrews and Dulse in Leith.

“It means it feels like a community collaboration in a way, and Amber fits in with what people want locally – those we heard from anyway.

“It’s an interesting way to ensure businesses provide what is needed and wanted locally, I think.

“And it was fun to feel we are all in it together – so I hope everyone loves the result.

“I had a blast creating this site, using everything I’ve learned from all our other sites in the group.

“I really feel like Amber is taking us in a new direction with more accessible dining in a fresh, beautiful space.”

On the menu at Amber is a selection of small plates, snacks and nibbles as well as heartier options, all using locally sourced ingredients.

This includes dishes such as Greek salad, fried calamari, olives, padrón peppers and cured meat sharing boards.

“Look out for Clams a la Portuguese, which is our favourite thing to eat on holiday. Really beautiful, simple, amazing food,” Banks said.

“Isabela’s lasagne is my wife’s own recipe, which she has reluctantly shared with me at last. It’s very good.

“And I love the simple crab linguine and the beef croquettes – both things we eat a lot at home or on holiday.

“It really is about fresh, tasty food and bringing dishes like these to St Andrews, our home, to share with our friends and family in the local area.”

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KILCREGGAN, ROTHESAY, KYLES OF BUTE & TIGHNABRUAICH — **SATURDAY August 8 - Leave 9:30am, back 7:30pm** One-way cruise down the River Clyde to the village of Kilcreggan £35, visit Kilcreggan for time ashore £43, visit Rothesay on the Isle of Bute £55, or stay aboard and cruise through the stunning Kyles of Bute to visit Tighnabruaich £59.

DUNOON, LOCH GOIL, LOCH LONG, ARROCHAR & HOLY LOCH — **SUNDAY August 9 - Leave 10am, back 8pm** One-way cruise to Greenock £31, visit Kilcreggan for time ashore £43, visit Dunoon £49, or stay aboard to cruise into Loch Goil viewing Lochgoilhead before steaming up Loch Long to Arrochar with a brief photocall at Ardnagal Pier £57.

LARGS, MILLPORT, BRODICK, ROUND HOLY ISLE & AILSA CRAIG — **MONDAY August 10 - Leave 9:30am, back 8:40pm** Cruise one-way to Largs £39, one-way trip to Millport on Great Cumbrae £40, visit Millport and return via Waverley and coach £51, steam across to Arran for time ashore in Brodick £57, or stay aboard and enjoy the full cruise viewing Holy Isle and Pladda before steaming round Ailsa Craig giving close up views of the famous granite island £61. Return by coach from Largs.

DUNOON, KYLES OF BUTE & TIGHNABRUAICH — **SATURDAYS August 15 & 29 - Leave 10:30am, back 7:40pm** One-way cruise down the River Clyde to Greenock £31, visit the Cowal resort of Dunoon £53, or stay aboard for a cruise through the stunning Kyles of Bute to visit the small village of Tighnabruaich £59.

ROTHESAY, LARGS, GARROCH HEAD, DUNAGOIL BAY & KYLES OF BUTE — **SUNDAY August 16 - Leave 10am, back 8:15pm** One-way cruise down the River Clyde to Greenock £31, visit Rothesay on the Isle of Bute £51, one-way trip to the seaside resort of Largs £39, visit Largs and return on Waverley £49, or stay aboard and enjoy the full cruise round Bute viewing Garroch Head, Dunagoil Bay and the Kyles of Bute £59.

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Decision not to charge Letby upheld

FAMILIES of six more babies said to have been harmed by serial killer nurse Lucy Letby have failed in their bid to overturn a decision not to prosecute her further.

In January, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) ruled no new criminal charges would be brought against Letby over potential offences of attempted murder and murder involving nine children, including two who died, as the "evidential test was not met".

Cheshire Constabulary had passed a file of evidence to the CPS asking to consider the allegations following a review of deaths and non-fatal collapses of babies during Letby's time at the Countess of Chester Hospital, and also Liverpool Women's Hospital where she trained, from 2012-16.

Six families requested a review of the CPS's decisions involving their child as part of the Victims' Right to Review scheme.

An "extensive" review by an independent prosecutor followed which upheld the ruling not to bring further charges, said the CPS.

Malcolm McHaffie, head of the CPS's special crime division said: "In January 2026, after reviewing a file of evidence from Cheshire Constabulary, we decided that no further criminal charges should be brought against Lucy Letby, 36, relating to deaths and non-fatal collapses of babies at the Countess of Chester Hospital and Liverpool Women's Hospital."

Letby, 36, is serving 15 whole life terms for the murders of seven babies and attempting to kill seven more at the Countess of Chester Hospital's neonatal unit between June 2015 and June 2016.

Thames Valley force mulls legal bid to block release of policeman's killers

PC ANDREW Harper's former force is considering joining potential legal action against the government as his widow backed a petition to block his killers being released from prison early.

Lissie Harper described feeling "punched in the gut" by the decision to push ahead with plans that could see Jessie Cole and Albert Bowers freed as part of a scheme starting in October.

Thames Valley Police Chief Constable Jason Hogg said he was receiving legal advice on whether the force could join a legal challenge mooted by the local Police Federation to prevent their release.

Some 5,000 people are expected to be released early under sentencing changes, down from 6,000 after ministers exempted rapists and "serious" child sex offenders as part of the scheme to tackle overcrowding in jails.

Cole and Bowers remain eligible to be freed halfway through their 13-year sentences after they were convicted of manslaughter in 2020 following PC Harper's death in 2019. More than 150,000 people have signed a petition demanding the government takes action to keep the killers in jail.

As she backed the calls, Ms Harper said: "Government has punched us in the gut... they should be ashamed of themselves.

"Hopefully we can make the current government come to their senses and realise we cannot put people like this back on our streets. Justice should mean justice and serving the sentence given."

Aileen O'Connor, who chairs the Thames Valley Police Federation, said releasing Cole and Bowers would anger and demoralise serving officers in the area."

Asked if he would join the case, Mr Hogg told BBC Radio 4's Today programme yesterday: "This is something I certainly would consider.

"I do think that the public opinion is overwhelming in this matter, but I think it's unfair and I do believe confidence in the criminal justice system risks being damaged.

"It's right for the government to have a look at this matter."

Justice minister Jake Richards said the killers would remain subject to the early release scheme from October as he faced broadcasters yesterday morning.

"It would be wrong to pick out individual cases within different offending cohorts," he said. "That wouldn't be right. It wouldn't be lawful either. I understand the strength of feeling from police officers generally, but of course within that force in particular after the awful incident with PC Harper.

"If we do not have prison places available then the police, the good work that they do every day on the streets, finding perpetrators, locking them up, it would be impossible."

PC Harper was 28 when he sustained fatal injuries while responding to a quad bike theft in Sulhamstead, Berkshire, in August 2019.

He died after getting caught in a strap attached to the back of a car and dragged down a country road as three teenage suspects fled the scene of the burglary.

High note

Violinist and Festival Director Nicola Benedetti in a hot air balloon to launch the 2026 Edinburgh International Festival in the capital Picture: Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images

What is really going on with the CCA and its 50-year-old archive?

Brian Ferguson

IT is a lightning rod for controversy more than six months after its sudden closure in the face of a dramatic financial collapse behind the scenes.

The Scottish Government and its arts agency Creative Scotland are facing mounting criticism over the former Centre for Contemporary Arts (CCA) in Glasgow, as the future of the building and a cultural archive which dates back more than half a century hang in the balance.

The ongoing sale of both is going ahead against a backdrop of growing anger on social media, accusations of cultural vandalism and claims of a lack of transparency.

There also appears to be widespread confusion over why the Sauchiehall Street building, the contents of the venue when it closed, and the archive charting the half-century history of the CCA and its predecessor, the Third Eye Centre, have gone on to the market in recent weeks.

Campaigners and long-time supporters of the CCA and the Third Eye Centre are baffled at why this is going on just 18 months after the venue secured new Scottish Government funding worth £3.4 million over three years from Creative Scotland.

The future of the building has been uncertain ever since the CCA closed its doors at the end of January after its remaining board members decided to put the organisation into liquidation.

Hopes of a reopening of the venue were raised almost immediately, when Creative Scotland confirmed that it was the landlord of the building, an ownership dating back to the time of its predecessor, the Scottish Arts Council.

At the time, the arts agency pledged to "explore future options, alongside other partners, with the shared aim of the centre re-opening as a cultural resource as soon as is realistically possible".

Questioned about the future of the building at Holyrood, First Minister John Swinney said: "The Scottish Government, through Creative Scotland, will continue to engage on the issue and find a new operator for the building as soon as possible, recognising the cultural significance of the CCA to Glasgow."

However, an announcement that the former CCA building was about to be sold, which was made in Holyrood in early June by Mr Swinney's newly-appointed culture secretary, Mairi McAllan, caught many by surprise, given the previous pledges.

The future is uncertain for the CCA after the building's closure

The move is understood to have wrong-footed Creative Scotland, which was preparing to launch a process to seek "expressions of interest" in the former CCA site, including proposals which would involve leasing the building.

By then, two rival schemes proposing very different futures for the building had emerged.

The first to go public was a group of theatre and dance companies proposing to join forces with artists to turn the former CCA into a new cultural powerhouse, where productions would be developed, rehearsed and performed.

It then emerged that the Sauchiehall Street building was being targeted by the team behind plans for a new Scottish Rock and Roll Music Hall of Fame museum, an idea that had first emerged days after the CCA closed its doors.

On July 23, some seven weeks after Ms McAllan's Holyrood announcement, Creative Scotland announced the A-listed building, which was designed by architect Alexander "Greek" Thomson, was on the market and it was looking for proposals "from organisations with an intention of operating the building as a cultural venue, which are particularly welcome".

The marketing brochure produced by property consultants Graham & Sibbald for Creative Scotland, which has set a closing date of August 12, describes the building as a "substantial opportunity".

Just four days after the building went on the open market, it emerged that the contents of the venue and an archive documenting the history of both the CCA, which opened in 1992 and the Third Eye Centre, which dates back to the mid-1970s, had been put up for sale on behalf of the liquidators of the publicly-funded arts centre.

However, there had been no previous announcement by Creative Scotland or Ms McAllan of the sale of the contents of the building or the archive.

A closing date of July 30 was set by Middleton Barton, a company which is acting on behalf of the liquidators, for the equipment that was left behind in the publicly-funded arts centre when it closed. The firm also set a deadline on August 14 for expressions of interest in the archive, describing its sale as a "nationally important collection detailing a unique chapter in Glasgow's contemporary art scene over the last 50 years".

As criticism mounted on social media, Creative Scotland and Glasgow Life both issued statements to The Herald, confirming they were working together to secure the future of the archive and ensure it remained in the city.

The focus of criticism from campaigners, cultural organisations and academics soon shifted to the Scottish Government, with Amanda Catto, former head of visual arts at Creative Scotland, publishing an open letter demanding the culture secretary intervene on the archive.

Ms Catto said: "The Scottish Government has both an opportunity and a responsibility to ensure that a nationally significant cultural archive is not lost through the operation of insolvency law.

"If an archive of this importance can be treated simply as an asset to be realised during administration, what protection exists for the documentary history of other nationally significant cultural organisations should they face similar circumstances?

With a planned protest by activists outside the building at the end of last week looming, Ms McAllan took to social media.

In a carefully-worded statement, she said she had been given "concrete assurances" that the archive was not part of the auction process of the contents of the CCA.

She added: "I have been crystal clear that the archive of the Third Eye Centre and CCA should be retained in whole and available to the public, given its incredible cultural significance to Glasgow and Scotland.

"I am pleased that Creative Scotland has been working with local partners and is in contact with the liquidators to ensure a secure future for the archive in Glasgow. I completely understand the importance placed on the archives by many artists, creatives and by the public. They are very important to me too."

Despite Ms McAllan's intervention, the archive is still very much up for sale. Middleton Barton's web page on the archive states: "Since news of the CCA's liquidation, there has been clear interest from researchers, academics, and the Scottish archive sector in ensuring the archive is safeguarded and preserved for the long-term.

"It is identified as a culturally and historically valuable archive to Scotland's art scene. It documents a significant chapter in contemporary art and culture through the records which relate to past exhibitions, events, workshops, festivals and performances."

Labour MSP Paul Sweeney said: "The government needs to get ahead of this by making clear that retaining the building and its contents in public ownership as a cultural asset are an absolute red line."

Scottish Greens MSP Q Manivannan said: "Reassurance is not retention. Creative Scotland must explicitly name its 'partners' on the archive and the CCA's future, and state what funding, if any, has actually been committed. They must clarify who exactly has decision-making powers regarding which offers are accepted, for both the building and the archive. The liquidators must extend the offer deadline to allow for the possibility of a public rescue."

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Notice is hereby given that Neshion Ltd, ("the Company") with company registration number SC737642, having its registered office at 10 Charlotte Street, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0JL has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 to construct and operate Neshion Energy Park, comprised of up to eight wind turbines with a ground to blade tip height of 200 metres, a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and associated infrastructure, located adjacent to Sullom Voe Oil Terminal (SVT) and the Shetland Gas Plant in Shetland, Scotland (Central Grid Reference SU 41688 76600). The combined installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be approximately >50 MW. The proposed development is subject to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an EIA Report has been produced.

The Company has also requested a direction under section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the EIA Report discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for public inspection in person, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Location	Opening hours	Address
Shetland Library	10 am – 5 pm Tues, Weds, Fri & Sat 10 am – 8 pm Mon & Thurs	Lower Hillhead, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0EL
Shetland Islands Council	9 am – 5 pm Mon - Fri	8 North Ness, Lerwick, Shetland, ZE1 0LZ

The application and EIA Report can also be viewed on the application website at https://neshionenergypark.co.uk/; or at www.energyconsents.scot under application reference ECU00006120.

Copies of the EIA Report may be obtained from Shetland Aerogenerators Ltd by telephone: +44 (0)1595 690900 or by email: info@neshionenergypark.co.uk at a charge of £2,000 hard copy and £15 on USB storage device. Copies of a short Non-Technical Summary are available free of charge.

Any representations on the application may be submitted via www.energyconsents.scot, using the relevant Project Name and/or ECU reference number. Please note that you must be in possession of a working email address to submit a representation virtually.

If you would prefer to submit your representation by post, please send to the Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU, identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for representation. Written representations should be dated, clearly stating the name (in block capitals) and full postal address of those making representations.

All representations should be received not later than 14th September 2026. Scottish Ministers may be able to consider written representations received after this date.

Any subsequent additional information which is submitted by the Company will be subject to further public notice in this manner, and representations to such information will be accepted as per this notice.

Where Scottish Ministers decide to exercise their discretion to do so, they can cause a public inquiry to be held.

Scottish Ministers will determine the application for consent in one of two ways:

- Grant consent, with or without conditions attached; or
- Refuse the proposal.

General Data Protection Regulations

The Scottish Government processes representations under the Electricity Act 1989. To support transparency in decision making, the Scottish Government publishes online at www.energyconsents.scot.

A privacy notice is published on the Help page at www.energyconsents.scot. This explains how the Scottish Government processes your personal information. If you have any concerns about the processing of your personal information by the Scottish Government, please email EconsentsAdmin@gov.scot or write to Scottish Government, Energy Consents Unit, 4th Floor, 5 Atlantic Quay, 150 Broomielaw, Glasgow, G2 8LU.

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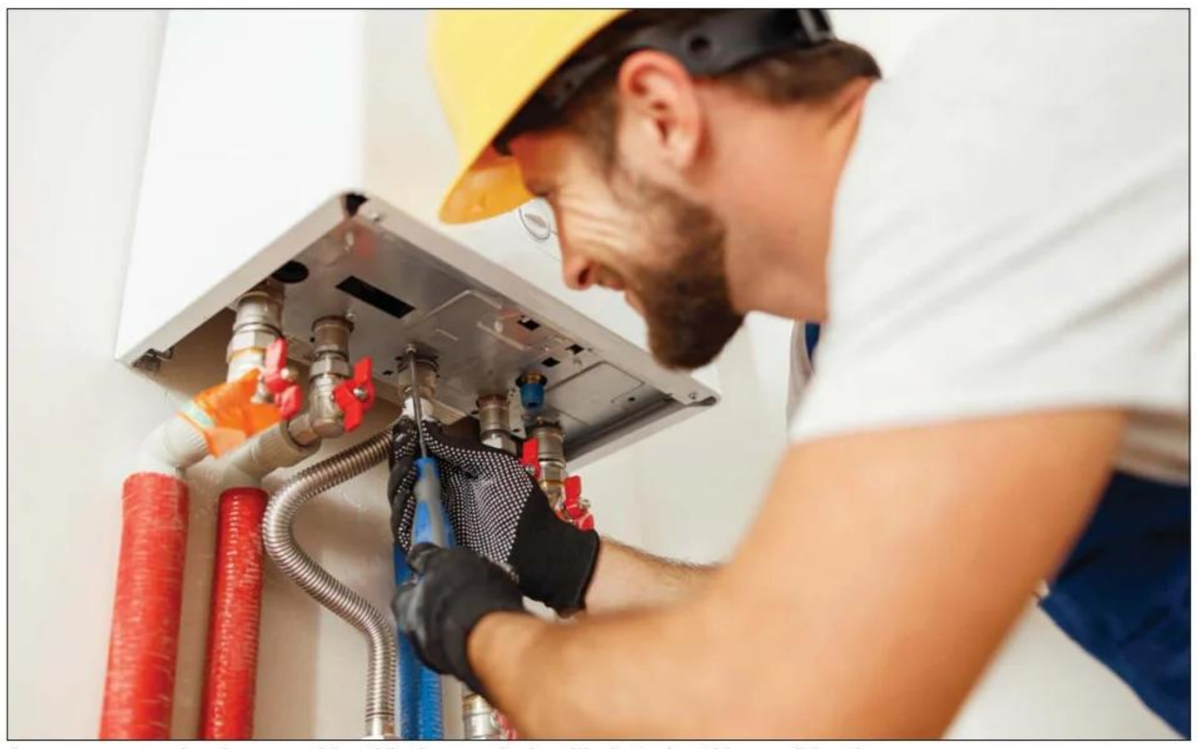
‘AI-proof’ jobs named according to poll of Scots teenagers



A career as a plumber was identified as a choice likely to be ‘AI-proof’ by the young

Caroline Wilson

PLUMBER tops the list for the most “AI-proof” job according to a survey of hundreds of school pupils in Scotland.

More than a third of teenagers (31%) polled picked the trade, with just under (30%) opting for electrician as the job they believe cannot be replicated by artificial intelligence.

This was followed by hairdresser or barber, nurse, mechanic and social worker.

Just over a quarter of the 500 students surveyed (26%) by Glasgow Kelvin College said they believed a chef was AI-proof, while engineer, joiner and teacher also featured prominently.

The survey of pupils aged 13 to 18 also found that 55% are actively looking to learn a skill that cannot be done by AI, while 60% said they were excited to learn skills that work alongside the technology.

The research was commissioned by Glasgow Kelvin College to mark National Opportunity Day 2026, its annual campaign highlighting the range of education, training and career opportunities available to people at different stages of their lives.

The study suggests AI is already deeply embedded in the lives of Scottish teenagers – but also that many young people are thinking critically about how to use it and the skills they will need in future.

Half of the respondents (50%) said they pay for a premium AI service, while 58% said they know when to use AI and when to test themselves without it.

Almost two-thirds (63%) said the rise of AI had made them question things they see online more often, while 56% believe they are good at spotting AI use in pictures, social media or writing.

The survey, conducted by independent insights agency Opinion Matters, found AI tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Snapchat AI and Copilot are now a routine part of teenage life.

Half (50.5%) use AI at least once a day, including 9% who use it three or more times daily. More than nine in 10 (92%) use it at least two or three times a week, while just 1% said they never use it. Respondents said they use the technology for a wide range of purposes, with almost a third (32%) using AI to find information or answer everyday questions, while 29% use it for homework or schoolwork, and 28% to explain things they do not understand.

Around a quarter use it to revise for exams (26%) and to generate creative ideas such as art, music or stories (24%). Others use AI for entertainment (22%), help writing emails or messages (21%) and coding or computer programming (20%).

> “There is sometimes a tendency to talk about young people as though AI is something happening to them

More than half (54%) believe AI represents an opportunity for their career prospects and 55% said they know it will affect their future but are not worried about it.

Robin Ashton, Vice Principal of Curriculum and Quality Enhancement at Glasgow Kelvin College, said the findings show young people are already thinking seriously about what AI means for their education, skills and careers.

He said: “There is sometimes a tendency to talk about young people as though AI is something happening to them, but these findings paint a more nuanced picture.

“That is where colleges have an increasingly important role to play.

“Glasgow Kelvin College gives people the opportunity to develop the skills employers need, while also learning how emerging technologies can complement those skills.”

Police work with club as they continue to probe disorder outside football ground

POLICE have said they are working with a football club to identify people involved in disorder outside its ground.

Officers continue to investigate an incident at Stirling Albion’s Forthbank Stadium following the team’s match against Dumbarton on Saturday.

The club has condemned the “hooliganism” after the match and promised lengthy bans for anyone identified.

Bosses have also banned unaccompanied under-16s from future matches and plan to introduce a “code of conduct” for young supporters.

Stirling Albion will also refuse entry to any fans wearing face coverings and eject those found wearing them inside the ground.

Police said enquiries into the disorder remain ongoing and have appealed for witnesses.

Inspector Steven McCooey said: “We are working with Stirling Albion FC, Stirling Council and other partners to identify those involved in the disorder.

“We appeal to those in the local community who witnessed any disorder, or who have any relevant footage, to contact police.”

Stirling Albion’s previously released statement said: “We recognise that anti-social behaviour is a societal problem that is much wider than football.

“We are working with Police Scotland, Stirling Council and other agencies on a range of measures to address matchday safety.

“In the longer term, through our charity arm, the Stirling Albion Foundation, we will continue to develop and promote youth initiatives and learning opportunities designed to offer young people better alternatives.”

COMMENT AT HERALDSCOTLAND.COM

Mounjaro sales double this year

WORLDWIDE sales of weight loss and diabetes jab Mounjaro have doubled this year as demand continues to boom, drugmaker Eli Lilly has revealed.

The manufacturer said its obesity medications Mounjaro and Zepbound were driving an acceleration of its overall sales.

Mounjaro sales totalled $18.6 billion (£13.8bn) in the first six months of the year – up by 106% compared with the same period in 2025.

Zepbound sales also leaped by 60% year-on-year to $9.1bn (£6.8bn).

In the US, the company’s biggest market, growth has been driven by a higher volume of sales as demand for the drugs continues to rocket.

This was far outpacing the impact of lower average prices on the group’s revenues, it said.

Prices have come down in China particularly, as a result of Mounjaro being added to a list of drugs that are eligible for reimbursement.

Mounjaro and Zepbound are both injectable medicines that contain the drug tirzepatide.

Eli Lilly also recently launched Foundayo, an obesity drug in pill form.

The company’s chief executive David Ricks told investors that it was “building for the future”.

He said: “With our next generation weight-loss medicine retatrutide and its complete clinical data package in hand, new manufacturing capacity coming online, and exciting new assets entering our pipeline, Lilly’s future, after 150 years, has never been brighter.”

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London robotaxis granted licences

A FLEET of self-driving cars to be used by Uber in London has been granted minicab licences.

Technology company Wayve said Transport for London (TfL) has awarded private hire vehicle licences to a number of its autonomous pure electric Ford Mustang Mach-E vehicles.

Uber said some of the 100,000 people who signed up to express their interest in experiencing robotaxis will be offered rides in the vehicles "later this summer", ahead of a full public launch.

A human driver will initially sit behind the wheel ready to take control during journeys, while the technology is demonstrated to be safe.

Wayve vice-president for global affairs and assurance, Sarah Gates, said: "This licence is an important step towards giving Londoners the chance to experience autonomous driving technology. The responsible deployment of these vehicles will bring us safer, cleaner and quieter streets, and we're proud to continue working alongside regulators, communities and the public as we take the next steps towards making autonomous rides a reality in the capital."

Afghan boxer appears in court over Scottish woman's death

Continued from Page 1

home country after being orphaned as a teenager.

He was initially detained on illegal weapons possession charges, and is facing a charge of homicide with intent, as well as allegations that he stole more than €10,000 (£8,500) from the victim's bank accounts using her bank cards, police said.

Greek officials said he admitted moving the body but denied the homicide allegations.

Homicide with intent is understood to be equivalent to a murder charge in Scotland.

Yesterday, floral tributes lay outside the abandoned building where Ms Ross's body was discovered.

One tribute to Ms Ross had a card with the words "Rest in peace" written in Greek.

The derelict structure at 7 Evelpidon Street is heavily graffitied and missing its windows, and it is surrounded by tall metal barriers.

Police said the suspect was detained for questioning after investigators reviewed surveillance camera footage recorded nearby.

After allegedly killing Ms Ross, Ahmadzai is accused of sending a series of messages from her phone to her friends and family before switching off the device.

He is then said to have bought another phone and texted her friends in Athens, including his wife, impersonating an unnamed jihadist saying he had killed the Scot because of her religion, Greek newspapers Proto Thema and Ta Nea reported.

The newspapers reported that his wife, a US citizen named Alaina Hall, told the police she suspected her husband's involvement in the killing when she woke up to find he was not in their apartment and tracked his phone to where Ms Ross was staying.

Ms Ross is believed to have died between five and seven days before she was found, during which time temperatures reached 36C.

The Hellenic Police, Greece's national force, were able to identify her using fingerprints.

Elisabeth-Jane Ross, also known as 'Lisa'

Sharif Ahmadzai is led out of the Athens Court House complex in Kypseli

> "Officers are providing support to her family in Scotland

Ms Ross, who is understood to be from Edinburgh, entered Greece on June 26 and was initially staying with friends in Piraeus, a port area of Athens.

She is then said to have gone to meet American friends in another part of the Greek capital, but it is unclear if this ever happened.

Authorities are awaiting the results of tissue analysis to determine whether she died from suffocation, as suggested by a preliminary assessment by the medical examiner.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office said earlier: "Our thoughts are with Elisabeth's family during this difficult time.

"We are providing consular support and are in contact with the local authorities."

A Police Scotland spokesperson previously said: "We are aware of the death of a Scottish woman in Athens and are liaising with authorities in Greece.

"Officers are providing support to her family in Scotland."

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Demand for EVs drives new car market

THE UK's new car market grew by 11.7% in July compared with the same month last year, new figures show.

Some 156,571 new cars were registered last month, the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said.

This was the best July performance since 2019.

The SMMT said the uplift marks the eighth consecutive month of year-on-year growth.

July's increase in registrations was driven by the strong uptake of electrified vehicles.

Registrations of pure battery electric new cars were up 44.5% compared with July 2025, which saw demand subdued ahead of incoming grants.

This was attributed to a wide choice of models, Government purchase incentives and heavy discounting by manufacturers.

SMMT chief executive Mike Hawes said: "July's record EV performance is a great achievement, reflecting industry's huge investment in zero emission mobility.

"But that progress cannot be sustained if manufacturers continue haemorrhaging billions in EV discounts, distorting demand to avoid even steeper penalties.

"The sector's commitment to decarbonisation is not in doubt but its ability to remain viable – and attract investment for an EV future – is under intense pressure.

"We need urgent reform of the regulation, else Britain risks undermining its competitiveness."

Man in court over lamp theft

A 20-YEAR-OLD man accused of stealing streetlamps and lanterns across the UK worth £1 million has made his first appearance in court.

It is alleged that John O'Sullivan stole lamps across several counties including Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Thames Valley, Essex and Hertfordshire between January 2025 and June 2025, Stevenage Magistrates' Court was told yesterday.

He faces seven additional counts of theft in Hertfordshire between September 2025 and March of this year.

O'Sullivan, of Barkway, Cambridgeshire, spoke only to confirm his name, address, and date of birth.

District Judge Alan Thorn sent the case to St Albans Crown Court for a hearing on September 2.

O'Sullivan was accompanied to court by his parents Anna O'Sullivan, 66, and Richard O'Sullivan, 67, whom prosecutor Micha O'Neill said are accused alongside their son.

They were charged with handling stolen goods and are due to attend their first court hearing at Stevenage Magistrates' Court on August 12.

O'Sullivan was released on conditional bail.

COMMENT AT HERALDSCOTLAND.COM

Nirmal Purja on Everest

Body of renowned climber Nirmal Purja recovered

Pakistan

SEARCH teams backed by military helicopters recovered the bodies of renowned British-Nepali mountaineer Nirmal Purja and three other missing climbers yesterday.

It brings the number of bodies recovered from Broad Peak to seven nearly a week after an avalanche swept away a 10-member international expedition, officials said.

The Alpine Club of Pakistan said the operation was one of the most technically demanding recovery missions ever carried out on the mountain. It said the bodies of Mr Purja, Chinese climber Zhong Wang, and Nepali climbers Nima Sherpa and Kilu Sherpa were brought to Broad Peak base camp.

Search teams brought down three other bodies on August 1.

The bodies will be transported to a military hospital in Skardu when weather conditions permit, local officials said.

In Nepal's capital, Kathmandu, family members, friends and supporters of the climbers gathered on Tuesday evening for a candlelight vigil. Buddhist monks chanted prayers as mourners observed a moment of silence before lighting candles in memory of those killed in the avalanche.

The climbers, who came from the UK, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, China and the United States, were swept away by an avalanche last Thursday in Pakistan's northern Gilgit-Baltistan region, in what the Alpine Club has described as one of the country's deadliest mountaineering disasters.

Pakistan foreign minister Ishaq Dar expressed condolences to the families of those killed, saying he was deeply saddened by the tragedy and Pakistan remained committed to the ongoing operation in co-ordination with the embassies of Nepal, Britain, Oman and the US.

Bodies of foreign climbers who die attempting to summit mountains in Pakistan are typically recovered only at the request of their families and governments.

If families decline recovery efforts, the remains of bodies are usually left where the climbers died.

In a statement, the Alpine Club thanked the Pakistani and Nepali recovery teams.

A firefighters battles a blaze after Russian missiles hit a warehouse in Ukraine's capital Kyiv Picture: Dan Bashakov/AP

Russian missile and drone attack in Kyiv kills at least 17

Kyiv

RUSSIAN missile and drone strikes on Kyiv and the surrounding region killed 17 people and wounded 44 others overnight into yesterday, Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Russia fired 24 ballistic missiles, four other missiles identified as either hypersonic Zircons or supersonic Oniks, and 115 drones, many of them jet-powered, in the attack.

Also yesterday, the director of a drone factory in the Urals was badly wounded when his car exploded, the Russian state Tass news agency reported.

Mr Zelenskyy said the Russian strikes mainly targeted warehouses belonging to civilian businesses, as well as infrastructure and a railway station, hitting sites that he described as "with no connection to the war" – including a brewing company, building materials warehouses and civilian logistics facilities.

The two-hour attack was the latest in a series of large-scale Russian ballistic missile strikes that have become near-routine this summer.

Ukraine has a limited stockpile of interceptor missiles for the US-made Patriot systems, the sole air defence system in its arsenal able to shoot down ballistic missiles, making large volleys like yesterday's hard to stop, even as Ukraine has stepped up deep strikes on Russian oil refineries and energy infrastructure.

"Ballistic interceptors are what could have saved the lives of those killed today," Mr Zelenskyy said in a statement on Telegram.

"It is very important for our partners to understand that delays in supplying them, or a reluctance to hand over anti-ballistic systems, lead directly to such horrific casualties and destruction."

> "Ballistic interceptors are what could have saved the lives of those killed today

In Russia, Tass said that Vladimir Tkachuk was taken to hospital in a grave condition after his car exploded in Bolshoy Istok just outside Yekaterinburg, about 375km east of Moscow. It did not immediately give details of the explosion or say who could be responsible.

Mr Tkachuk headed the Uraldrinzavod factory that manufactured the Upyr drones for the Russian military.

Russian authorities have blamed Kyiv for a series of bombings and other attacks against senior military officials after Moscow sent troops into Ukraine in February 2022.

The explosion followed Saturday's deadly bombing at an upscale Moscow restaurant, which the Russian Embassy in Rome blamed on Ukraine, describing it as an attempt to intimidate the Italian community in Russia. It said in a statement on Monday that the attack on the Balzi Rossi restaurant killed five and injured 19.

The Russian Foreign Ministry reposted the embassy statement without comment, and Russia's security agencies have not named the suspected culprits. Moscow mayor Sergei Sobyanin has described the bombing as a "brutal terrorist act", but did not say who was responsible.

Several Russian media outlets claimed the bombing targeted a Russian general who was celebrating his birthday at the restaurant. Some claimed that the general was Col Gen Alexander Chaiko, who led the troops that made a botched attempt to storm the Ukrainian capital in 2022 and recently was appointed the chief of Russia's aerospace forces. The claims could not be independently verified.

In Ukraine, in the wider Kyiv region around the capital, there were fires at multiple locations in Brovary, Bucha and Fastiv districts, Ukraine's emergency service said.

Large warehouse fires burned in the city of Brovary and the villages of Velyka Dymerka, Kvitneve and Peremoha.

In Bucha district, crews battled a warehouse fire in the village of Chaiky after putting out a separate fire at a logistics facility in Sofiivska Borshchahivka.

In the capital, emergency crews extinguished all fires sparked by the strikes in the Obolonskyi, Sviatoshynskyi, Holosiivskyi and Desnianskyi districts.

Serhii Beskrestnov, an adviser to Ukraine's president on defence technology development, said the war of attrition has entered a new phase.

"The enemy is attacking everything indiscriminately – retail warehouses, food storage facilities, logistics hubs, enterprises, building materials warehouses," he said on Facebook.

WHO chief arrives to support Ebola response as cases near 4,000

Health workers at a burial operation for Ebola victims

DR Congo

THE head of the World Health Organisation has arrived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to support measures being ramped up to slow the world's fastest-growing Ebola outbreak, the agency said, as confirmed cases reach nearly 4,000.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus arrived in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's capital, late on Tuesday night and was scheduled to meet with partners and President Felix Tshisekedi, the WHO country office told The Associated Press.

It is his second visit to the country since the outbreak was declared in mid-May.

The Ebola outbreak reached 3,874 cases, including 1,751 deaths as of Monday, according to the latest data published overnight by the Democratic Republic of the Congo's Ministry of Health.

The outbreak has eclipsed all other Ebola outbreaks in history in terms of rate of transmission, and is the second-largest outbreak on record, only behind the 2014-2016 West Africa outbreak that recorded more than 28,000 cases, including more than 11,000 deaths.

The Bundibugyo virus that is causing the outbreak has no approved treatment or vaccine, and local officials believe the outbreak had been raging on in a remote part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo long before it was declared on May 15.

Most of the new cases being recorded in the outbreak are outside of contacts being monitored after their exposure to patients, showing that Ebola is still spreading faster than the response that has been expanding.

In Ituri province, the epicentre which accounts for nearly 90% of cases, many localities are still not accessible because of safety concerns amid rebel conflict.

Many health workers have gone on strike to protest lack of payment, although some have reported receiving their payment in recent days.

The Africa Centres for Disease and Control director-general Dr Jean Kaseya said on Tuesday when he visited Bunia, Ituri's capital, that contact tracing is not working, with at least 60-70% of new cases coming outside of the contact list.

"We need to be innovative on the way to approach the contact list," Dr Kaseya said.

Late detection of cases remains challenging and has been a key contributing factor to the 45% fatality rate, officials say.

The 77 new cases reported in the previous 24 hours included 44 deaths, according to the health ministry's update.

At least 717 patients are in isolation, while 749 patients have recovered.

In Brief

Rare organ chord change in world's slowest concert

Germany: A small organ in eastern Germany is the headliner of the world's slowest concert. It has been playing the same piece of music by composer John Cage at a glacial pace for nearly 25 years.

A rare chord change yesterday – from seven notes to eight once an A4 pipe is added – will represent the completion of about 4% of the 639-year endeavour of the John Cage Organ Project Halberstadt.

While the project commenced in 2000, the performance began September 5, 2001 – Cage's 89th birthday – with a silent pause that lasted until February 5, 2003, when the first chords could actually be heard inside the medieval Burchardi Church in Halberstadt, Germany. The ORGAN²/ASLSP (As SLow aS Possible) composition is scheduled to finish on September 4, 2640.

USA: The childhood home of Apollo 11 astronaut Neil Armstrong is up for sale.

Owned by a retired history teacher for nearly 40 years, the house in Wapakoneta, Ohio, has been preserved to reflect its past. Armstrong, who died in 2012 aged 82, built model planes there and took his first flying lessons nearby.

The home has hosted astronauts, including Buzz Aldrin, and contains memorabilia such as autographed photos. The owner is hoping someone will buy it and donate it to the Armstrong museum.

North-east Asia: Extreme temperatures have gripped South Korea, North Korea and Japan.

In most of South Korea, a major heat wave advisory was in place yesterday as temperatures in densely populated greater Seoul, home to 20 million people, and adjacent areas soared as high as 39C. North Korean authorities have issued a heat wave advisory in many areas and called for people to take safety steps to avoid heat-related health problems.

Japan's anti-disaster agency reported more than 18,000 people with heat stroke symptoms were taken to hospital during the week of July 20 to 26. Since mid-May in South Korea, about 2,220 people have been diagnosed with heat-related illnesses and 19 have died, according to a report from Interior and Safety Ministry. About 17,140 livestock and some 160,000 farmed fishes have also died.

Australia: Australian airline Jetstar plans to charge passengers for using overhead compartments starting in February 2027.

The airline says this change aims to reduce stress at boarding gates by eliminating the need to weigh bags and find space in overhead lockers. Passengers can still stow a small item under the seat for free.

The fee for overhead storage will start at 25 Australian dollars, depending on the route. Jetstar is the first in Australia to introduce this charge, following a trend among budget airlines in the US and Europe.

Taiwan: Taipei City kicked off annual military exercises yesterday aimed at simulating a response to a potential Chinese invasion of the self-governed island Beijing claims as its own.

The live-fire exercises will test the Taiwanese army's ability to sustain 24-hour defence operations as well as counter China's "grey-zone tactics", which stop just short of open warfare.

Urban resilience drills will test the population's response to a disruption in internet service. The 10-day Han Kuang exercises are set to be held in various locations around the island.

This year's drills will test new, US-inspired communication methods including backbriefs – where subordinates explain to commanders how they plan to carry out assigned missions. The communication drills are intended to encourage first-line fighters to be more self-reliant and effective in battle, experts say.

Germany: Flights at Leipzig/Halle Airport, a major cargo hub, were disrupted during the night after a sighting of a flying object was reported and another object was found near a runway, police said.

Several flights, including one passenger plane, were diverted to other airports after the sighting of the flying object near the airport shortly before midnight.

Police said an anti-explosives robot was deployed to check the other object near the airport's south runway. They did not elaborate.

Flights using the other runway resumed shortly before 2am, but the south runway remained closed on Wednesday morning, a police statement said.

Guatemala: The population remained on alert after evacuating hundreds of people following an eruption of the Fuego volcano, which is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire and one of Central America's most active volcanoes.

The country's disaster management agency said 659 people were evacuated from eight villages in the danger area and are being housed in nearby shelters. The eruption started on Monday morning, with videos showing clouds of gas and ash above the volcano as lava and pyroclastic flows rolled down.

Claudinne Ogaldes, executive secretary of the Guatemalan disaster management agency, or Conred, said that about 10 more communities are expected to be evacuated throughout the day.

Brazil: The government on Tuesday announced it is reducing its diplomatic presence in Argentina after renewed attacks by Argentine President Javier Milei on his counterpart, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

It is the first time in recent history that such a move has taken place between the two neighbours.

A spokesperson for Brazil's foreign office told The Associated Press that Mr Milei has called Mr Lula "a thief" three times since Sunday. He used similar wording on July 25 at the party convention of senator Flavio Bolsonaro, son of the former president, who will be Mr Lula's rival in October's election.

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Scotland at 'very dangerous moment' as CCA archive and building go on sale

Q MANIVANNAN

The CCA and its predecessor were never a rarefied gallery for the few

ART workers in Scotland are helpless. Despite public outcry, the contents of the Centre for Contemporary Arts in Glasgow are now largely gone, sold to the highest bidder in a shambolic process. And now, despite reassurances from Creative Scotland's Director of Arts that the CCA's archive was to be "saved, protected and future-proofed", and after Culture Secretary Màiri McAllan told the public she had received "concrete assurances" the archive would be "retained in whole and available to the public", the archive is being advertised for sale, with social media adverts declaring that you too can "purchase a piece of Glasgow's creative heritage".

As an MSP whose constituents, festival organisers and filmmakers in Edinburgh and East Lothian have written to me expressing concern that this represents a loss to Scottish culture, and whose calls to preserve the CCA's building and archive have gone unanswered, I share this feeling of helplessness. And what do we do with this feeling?

The CCA building has an offer deadline of August 12 at 5pm. Its archive is currently being advertised by private treaty through Middleton Barton, with offers invited by August 14. The listing covers the entirety of the Third Eye Centre archive (1973-1991), including committee papers, posters, catalogues, video and audio recordings, as well as the CCA archive from 1992 to the present day: fourteen collections of slides, VHS recordings, photographs, publications and paper records.

This is 50 years of Scotland's contemporary art history, with no known public buyer yet secured and only days left on the clock.

Residents were quick to point to the stark mismatch between promise and reality, describing those involved in this decision as "vultures" and "rotten", asking whether it was all a sick joke, and questioning why such an important archive was not being placed with the National Library of Scotland instead of being sold off in what many regard as an act of cultural vandalism. I agree.

And the now-empty site at 350 Sauchiehall Street is not simply a property awaiting a buyer. It is a dark building on a street that has already lost the O2 ABC to fire and watched the Glasgow School of Art rebuild twice. Every month it sits empty is another month in which the city centre appears to be somewhere culture used to happen.

The short deadline means meaningful planning around a public body, consortium or charity putting forward a public-ownership bid is extremely challenging. And what happens if there is no suitable offer or meaningful expression of interest in either the archive or the building? Who steps in then to honour these promises?

I, like many Save Our CCA campaigners, know that commercial processes are rarely conducted in the public interest. Yet both the CCA and the Scottish Government appear to be asking us to hope for the best, without any transparency about what that hope is based upon.

Cabinet Secretary McAllan's statement only said that the archive would not be sold during the liquidator's sale of the building's contents, which ended on Thursday, July 30. That was a different auction, where much of the building's essence, projectors, furniture, artwork and sculptures, was sold for as little as £1 on a commercial website more commonly used to shift food-processing machinery.

But the archive sits within a separate, ongoing private-treaty sale that was already live before the Cabinet Secretary spoke and remains live today. The sale of the building also continues.

So what do the Scottish Government's and Creative Scotland's reassurances actually mean when there is zero transparency about how they will be implemented?

There has been no commitment and no clarity about who holds a seat at the table during this liquidation process. Do Creative Scotland and Glasgow City Council, both of which previously provided grants and loans to the CCA, hold any power to delay the deadlines for offers on either the building or the archive?

Because the CCA and its predecessor were never rarefied galleries for the few. The Third Eye Centre ran exhibitions on Scottish football that attracted 30,000 visitors alongside its avant-garde programme, while the CCA's 2006 shift to an open-source model allowed ordinary artists and community groups to propose their own events rather than wait to be curated.

Much of the earliest video archive was recorded by members of the public who borrowed the centre's camera equipment. And this was built with public money, including Lottery funding and £3.4 million from Creative Scotland committed as recently as last year, creating a genuinely open, working-class-accessible cultural hub in the city centre.

Thirty-nine staff lost their jobs when the organisation collapsed, some without receiving wages owed to them. The Save Our CCA campaign itself emerged from Culture Conditions, a worker-led, trade union-backed movement.

For the authorities to now treat the building and its archive as disposable stock is not some niche heritage complaint. It is public money and public history walking out of the door. How much more can the public do?

The Save Our CCA campaign held a protest outside the building last Friday, demanding that it be preserved as "a multimedia publicly owned arts venue". It followed a public petition attracting more than 2,500 signatures, cross-party political support and intervention from academics.

On July 30, more than 30 academics and staff from Edinburgh College of Art at the University of Edinburgh wrote to the University of Glasgow's Surveying Officer in support of stopping the sale, warning that dispersal of the archive "would be of critical damage to the continued generation of new research into the social, political and civic histories of Scotland". They concluded: "We would be a lesser country without it."

Take One Action, the independent film festival with a long history of partnership with the CCA, put the human cost plainly when I spoke to its representatives. They said the centre's open programming model "allowed us to put on a multitude of beautiful and transformative screenings, workshops and performances", with audiences "going back out into the world with plans to take positive actions in their local communities".

They told me: "If this building is lost to the public permanently, the loss will be much more than just bricks and mortar."

Glasgow MSP Patrick Harvie, writing in The National, put it starkly, arguing that Scotland is at "a very dangerous moment" for its cultural infrastructure and that this represents a significant challenge for the Cabinet Secretary.

Local Green councillor Christy Mearns shared her concerns with me, saying that the sale of the CCA and its archives would affect Scotland as a whole by "diminishing opportunities for artists, audiences, creative organisations and international cultural exchange".

Meanwhile, Paul Sweeney MSP said he was "relieved" by the Cabinet Secretary's reassurances but insisted that "retaining the building and its contents in public ownership as a cultural asset is an absolute red line".

And I agree.

Reassurance is not retention. A letter is not a guarantee. And a red line unbacked by a funding commitment or legal instrument is not a red line at all. It is simply false hope.

For it to be anything more than that, we need action.

Creative Scotland must explicitly name its partners in discussions about the archive and the CCA's future, and state what funding, if any, has actually been committed rather than merely discussed. It must also publicly clarify exactly who holds decision-making powers regarding which offers are accepted, for both the building and the archive.

The liquidators must extend the offer deadline to allow time for a serious public rescue effort, rather than allowing a fortnight to determine the difference between preservation and permanent loss.

The Scottish Government must confirm in writing whether it, or any public body or charity, intends to submit an offer before 12 August for the building and 14 August for the archive. If not, it should explain why.

The damage is already being done. The building's contents have been dispersed and its future remains uncertain. If we are to preserve a key part of Glasgow's cultural identity, a public hub for art whose history is now being offered for sale, it is clear that engagement with the arts sector is urgently needed.

Warm words will not stop a private buyer's cheque clearing on 14 August.

Only action from the authorities, or a publicly committed offer from a public body, will.

I am calling on the Scottish Government to act this week, not after the deadline has passed, when the only thing left to debate is how we lost it.

Q Manivannan MSP is culture spokesperson for the Scottish Greens

UNSPUN

New PM. Good vibes. Polo shirt. Also voted for the asylum bill

BRÓCCÁN TYZACK-CARLIN

A NORTHERNER? Who thinks our political system is broken? Who listens to The Lathums and does "this or that" TikToks? Is going to be Prime Minister? Where do I sign?

The inspiration behind everyone's new favourite viral dance trend (via Harry Hill) is now our Prime Minister. He's told us he's going to bring radical change.

He's the last bastion of hope against the far right. He wears polo shirts. It's all very exciting. So why do so many of us feel uninspired?

Burnham's road to No. 10 has been a long one, filled with victories – his coronation as King of the North – and stains against his name – his longstanding defence of the invasion of Iraq.

But he emerges through the flames a thoroughly popular man.

As a career politician, Burnham can't be considered a breath of fresh air into Westminster, but he has the good fortune of following a deluge of leaders devoid of morals and/or charisma. In a speech just before he became the seventh British Prime Minister in 10 years, he told us he's going to stop Labour's approach of trying to "out-Reform Reform".

Does that include not validating the immigration stances of their far-right crypto-billionaire-backed leader? Because that's what he did during the Makerfield by-election.

"I do agree with what Farage is saying" are words no-one should ever say. Regardless of what it is Farage has said. Even if Farage had said "dogs are nice", "Edinburgh is a bit too busy in August", or "chippies aren't very good in London", you shouldn't align yourself with him.

Crucially, Burnham agreed with Farage over the increased use of immigrant detention centres. A breath of fresh air!

Even if it was an attempt to curry favour with swing voters in Makerfield, we have seen how damaging meeting Farage on his own turf can be – for the country's soul and for Labour's electoral hopes.

There is a chance he wasn't pandering to the Reform voter base and that he does sincerely agree with Farage – Burnham did just vote for Labour's new authoritarian asylum bill, which could see child refugees financially liable for their own care. But, don't worry, he likes Oasis!

With no leadership contest to navigate, it's hard to know exactly what his policies are. He has given a few nice speeches in Manchester, where he said good things about building more social housing. That was cool.

And he did it in a T-shirt. So sick. Bet he can skateboard too.

But nothing concrete has been laid out policy-wise. Greater public control of gas and water? Sounds wicked. In what form? He may "ask for a little more tax". Sounds great! Who from?

He has the luxury of being non-committal.

In his recent statement about Labour's response to the genocide in Gaza, he diplomatically noted that there was "increasing evidence that war crimes appear to have been committed".

You tell 'em, Andy. Finally, the advocacy for human rights we've all been waiting for. The statement itself acted as evidence to suggest that there appears to be a sort of lack of a spine. Hinting towards condemnation of the suggestion of war crimes isn't really up to snuff. And it won't win back the swathes of voters who abandoned Labour due to the moral bankruptcy of Starmer and his cabinet.

This is all to say I think Burnham will be a better Prime Minister than Keir Starmer.

He's at least voicing good intentions and an understanding of the hurt the country is experiencing, as opposed to voicing support for war crimes on LBC.

He's done positive work in Manchester and earned strong support and a national profile through his advocacy for the region. But let's keep an eye on the bugger.

We need to be wary. To misquote Tim Vine: "when your future PM is appeasing the anti-immigrant sentiments of the far right – alarm bells".

Burnham has a better chance of steering the country away from the clutches of Reform than Starmer did, but he needs to come out swinging with actionable change.

He needs to realise that the Labour party isn't losing votes because it hasn't effectively communicated its Reform-lite policies well enough, but because it's allowed Farage's harmful rhetoric to dominate the national conversation and political climate.

Bróccán Tyzack-Carlin is a comedian and poet. His Edinburgh Festival Fringe show, Good News It's Been Destroyed, is on at the Pleasance at 11pm until August 29.

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KEVIN MCKENNA

Shameless Sturgeon rewrites history – but fools no-one

Nicola Sturgeon was bequeathed a healthy, united and well-run party of independence which shook the British establishment to its Union Jack foundation garments. She proceeded to squander it

YOU'RE tempted to spare a thought for John Swinney after reading Nicola Sturgeon's new epilogue for her memoir, Frankly. Mr Swinney has spent the last two years defending his predecessor's honour, having dutifully carried her bags for the previous ten. Is Ms Sturgeon grateful for his heroic attempts at rewriting history on her behalf? No, she is not.

Lamenting a lack of substance in May's Holyrood election campaign, she writes: "Even from the SNP, which rightly put Scottish independence centrally as an objective, but didn't always bring alive the opportunities it offers for people in a tangible sense, there was a lack of vision or big-picture thinking."

So, what's new? Ms Sturgeon's entire nine-year tenure as First Minister was characterised by "a lack of vision or big-picture thinking".

We should perhaps be grateful for her political insularity, though. Just about everything within her narrow focus turned to dust in a decade of unremitting failure. The attainment gap remains wide; our deprived communities are all still deprived; the challenge of addiction became a crisis; no Promise has been delivered and the movement she led has become a nasty, unpleasant and vengeful organism, whose senior officers (including her) stand accused of turning a blind eye to the weapons-grade corruption that was happening in their executive suite. God knows what mayhem would have ensued if she'd started thinking about "the big picture".

She wasn't even any good at independence. Having been bequeathed a healthy, united and well-run party of independence which shook the British establishment to its Union Jack foundation garments, she proceeded to squander it.

After promising a referendum in almost every year since 2016, Ms Sturgeon declared in 2017 there would be "a reset" which reimagined it by 2021.

As Joanna Cherry said in her own much better-written and revelatory memoir, "her reset was the first step in a strategy of kicking the can down the road, until such time as the road ran out".

At least Mr Swinney now knows what it's like to be on the thick end of a Nicola Sturgeon hounding. Perhaps he'll feel released from whatever servile pledge had previously bound him to glorify her name at all times.

The most entertaining snippets in a self-pitying, inchoate ramble through the ribbons of her vivid imagination are rendered more so because they come with no hint of irony. Ms Sturgeon tells us she's enjoying living outside Scotland. Oh, the rage-bait for her former devotees.

"Until it came up in the context of the police investigation in 2023, I did not even know that the infamous camper-van existed," she continues to insist. The rest of Scotland, meanwhile, shouts: "It's behind you", as though she were Buttons in a Cinderella panto.

Referring to what she understood to be the reaction that greeted the first imprint of her memoir, she writes: "a lot of people told me I had been too hard on myself."

Perhaps this is why she opted for her big London flit. Clearly her new friends on the Home Counties literary circuit know nothing about what really happened in Scotland during Ms Sturgeon's tenure.

Even within the restricted space of her 6,000-word codicil, there's a contrived obsession with "right-wing populism", this being the favoured put-down of the artisan lefties when working-class people point out their hypocrisies.

She aligns herself with the Scottish Greens who, she says, could have taken more seats from the SNP if they'd stood in more constituencies. Which rather overlooks the fact that the Bearsden Bolshevists only did well in seats where the delicatessens sell warm pastrami on rye. Ms Sturgeon is gushing about the Scottish Greens. "They didn't want the analysis of right-wing populists about the causes of these challenges to be meekly accepted or appeased. They wanted those arguments to be confronted with passion – but, moreover, with reason and credible solutions."

Later, she writes: "It was the Scottish Greens who, in my view, came closest to injecting a sense of hope for the future into the campaign. I don't agree with the Greens on everything – though I do on a lot – but, even on deeply controversial issues, they have the courage to stand up for what they believe in, without equivocation or apology."

Would that be the same Scottish Greens who embody everything that she purports to lament: bullying, deep-rooted misogyny and homophobia and the hounding of opponents, especially in identity politics? And who harbour an ugly strain of anti-Israel invective?

Several Scottish charities advocating for the homeless, addicts and disabled people are struggling today. Perhaps, if Ms Sturgeon took a break from sipping cocktails in London salons and her interminably long book tour, she could pop back up now and then and help them get their voices heard.

It's just that she weaponised the identity debate to attack decent, committed, liberal women. And some of these organisations are led by the wrong sort of liberals, or "the hard right" as her supporters call them.

She weeps about "the breakdown of any semblance of a rules-based international order" and laments the ascendancy of a "might is right" mindset. There's a sense within many countries, she says, "that democracy is in reverse". This from the former leader of a party which routinely flouts the law and ransacks the public finances to fund worthless legal challenges.

Her government embraced the playbook of the regimes that scare her: the workplace climate of fear for dissenters; the 6am knock; the politicisation of Police Scotland; the wholesale doctrinal capture of the NHS and the education sector; the incessant onslaughts against women who won't wheesht; the STUC's mass betrayal of female members who refuse to bend the knee to the new state dogma.

When experienced party activists attempted to ask pertinent questions about the SNP's finances while her tea-leaf husband was transitioning to fancy-goods tycoon, shameless Ms Sturgeon shut them down and humiliated them so that everyone else would get the message.

"Until recently there was widespread acceptance that there are such things as objective facts, and that they matter," she now writes. In this party, on her watch, objective facts were non-binary.

IAN HOUSTON

Royal Dornoch Golf Club Picture: Getty

What Royal Dornoch teaches us about the future of the Highlands

AS I was preparing to head over to Royal Dornoch Golf Club, a dove settled outside my window; its song a gentle invocation for the day ahead. The long-anticipated moment had finally arrived, the opportunity to walk the fairways of one of the world's finest golf courses. I stepped outside, felt the Highland breeze upon my face, and embraced the gifted moment that lay ahead.

Soon enough, I was standing on the first tee with Neil Hampton, the warm and gracious General Manager of Royal Dornoch; Dean Knuth, a wise storyteller whose gift for sharing the history and spirit of the course is truly special; and the good-natured Stewart Wilson, whose detailed knowledge of the course rivals any.

As a first-time player, I had the privilege of being guided into the story of Royal Dornoch by those who know its character, traditions, and enduring spirit so well. I could not have asked for better companions or more passionate custodians with whom to share this unforgettable experience.

Midway through the round, Neil and I began talking about how community lies at the beating heart of the course. As he reflected on his father's values, he shared a beautiful principle that has shaped the way he cares for the course and approaches both golf and life.

"It is not ours to keep, but ours to share."

Those simple words of wisdom stayed with me. They remind us that the greatest gifts we receive, whether a place, a talent, a friendship, or an opportunity, find their deepest purpose not in being possessed, but in being shared with others.

Royal Dornoch is truly a design masterpiece and a heavenly setting that rightfully places it among the finest golf courses in the world. Yet what makes any golf course genuinely shine is the way it enriches community and nurtures a spirit of caring and sharing. People need places where they feel they belong, where they are welcomed, encouraged, and valued.

To me, that is what makes Royal Dornoch truly great. It is also what makes the town of Dornoch, the Highlands, and Scotland so special. Their enduring strength is found not only in breathtaking landscapes or remarkable history, but in a culture that understands the richest gifts in life are not ours to keep, but ours to share, cherish, and protect as good stewards.

Neil's words also caused me to think beyond Royal Dornoch. They reminded me that this same spirit of stewardship has long defined the Highlands, carried forward through generations by people who understand that culture, community, and opportunity are gifts to be shared.

The Highlands are not simply preserving the past. They are looking confidently to the future, embracing innovation while remaining deeply rooted in the values, traditions, and sense of community that have shaped this remarkable place for generations.

Across the Highlands today, countless people carry forward the region's rich heritage while ensuring its enduring values continue to shape its future. As I reflect on their remarkable contributions, my thoughts turn to the distant past.

I have long admired the extraordinary seventeenth-century Gaelic poet and writer Mary MacLeod. She was a woman of immense courage, resilience, and literary brilliance whose legacy deserves far greater recognition.

When I think of Mary MacLeod's strength, I also think of the many inspiring women entrepreneurs who embody that same Highland spirit today. Three immediately come to mind: Claire Campbell of Prickly Thistle, Amy Britton of Britton Scotland, and Clare Coghill of Café Cùil. Through their creativity, craftsmanship, and deep commitment to place, they are ensuring that Highland culture is not merely remembered, but lived, shared, and strengthened for generations to come.

Claire Campbell is one of the most gifted communicators I have had the privilege of knowing. Her vision has transformed Prickly Thistle into a remarkable enterprise, producing textiles woven entirely from 100 per cent Scottish wool at her mill just outside Inverness. She has shown that heritage and innovation can flourish together.

Amy Britton, with her shop in Dornoch, has likewise become a thoughtful ambassador for Highland and Scottish values. Through Britton Scotland, she creates beautifully designed products that celebrate the landscapes, traditions, and identity of the Highlands with authenticity and elegance.

And Clare Coghill, through Café Cùil, has created far more than a welcoming café on Skye. She has fostered a modern gathering place where community, hospitality, and Highland warmth come together, reminding us that preserving culture is as much about bringing people together as it is about safeguarding traditions, stories, language, and the sense of belonging that connects generations.

The Highlands and Islands are also strengthened by a remarkable network of organisations, including the Inverness Chamber of Commerce, the West Highland Chamber of Commerce, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Highland Business Women, and the Highland Women Growth Partnership. The University of the Highlands and Islands continues to be a powerful force for opportunity, research, and innovation.

Together, they are demonstrating that the Highlands and Islands are open to business, innovation, investment, and opportunity while championing the people, communities, and enterprises that make this remarkable region such a distinctive place to live, work, and grow.

As I reflect on that morning in Dornoch, I return to the gentle song of the dove outside my window. It was a fitting reminder that the greatest gifts we receive, as Neil so beautifully expressed, are not ours to keep, but ours to share.

Royal Dornoch, the town of Dornoch, and the wider Highlands and Islands embody that spirit. Their true strength lies not only in their landscapes and history, but in the people and organisations who welcome, protect, and carry their story forward for generations to come.

The Highlands and Islands are among those rare gifts entrusted to our care. They are not ours to keep, but ours to share, protect, and pass on with gratitude to those who follow.

Ian Houston is a regular writer for the Herald. He has spent his career as an advocate for diplomacy, trade, poverty alleviation, and intercultural dialogue. He promotes commercial, educational, artistic, and charitable linkages between Scotland, the UK, and the US. He is an Honorary Professor and Lecturer at the University of the West of Scotland and the University of Aberdeen. He is based in the Washington, DC, area. His views are his own

The Herald

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And he's off – Burnham enjoys a break, but bounce fades

LETTERS

JUST two weeks after getting the job, Andy Burnham is on holiday.

Well, he's had a tough year plotting to oust Sir Keir Starmer.

But his early polling bounce has already faded, and his party is still on the low 20s in percentage, along with Nigel Farage's Reform UK and Kemi Badenoch's Tories. (And all doing worse in Scotland.)

There was a recent rumour that Mr Burnham would instigate an inquiry regarding Jeffrey Epstein, though this was denied by No 10. (North or South, I wonder.)

Perhaps it was a story planted to deflect coverage from England's politically controversial early release of prisoners scheme.

Though it would also have revived interest in stories about Peter Mandelson and friends, some of whom are still in the Cabinet.

We must all of us, regardless of politics, hope Mr Burnham is up to the job.

But his early statements are entirely about policy for England. Has he simply gone from being Mayor of Greater Manchester to being Mayor of Greater England?

GR Weir, Ochiltree.

Patience won't last on prisons

THE PM will receive heavy flak as he tries to devise a reasonable solution to prison overcrowding.

Survivors of brutal physical or sexual assaults, and the relatives of murder victims, can be excused for expressing horror at the release of inmates for such crimes.

Naturally they are fearful of repeated exposure to those perpetrators of such serious crimes. Most likely those released will not have shown any signs of remorse for past conduct. Nor will they have been properly rehabilitated, to allow them to participate harmoniously in society.

Meanwhile, media coverage will have made the general public wary of the reintroduction of such criminals into the outside world, especially when they have not yet shown themselves able to restrain their violent impulses.

Promises have been made to fit those released with tags; monitoring will ensure that they don't trespass where their victims live, or once lived.

How secure such promises will turn out to be, with an overworked and understaffed probationary service, we must wait and see.

The media will have a field day with every breach committed by every early released prisoner.

This will add to the criticism that the government is already receiving. Only time will tell whether this early release trial will be tolerated until the shortage of prison places is remedied.

Meanwhile, there may be tragic incidents, as a result of the early release scheme.

Will the government's poll ratings plummet with every gruesome but predictable incident?

The predicament landed on the doorstep of the current government through no fault of its own.

The problem has been building since the prison estate was left unfunded, while money was spent elsewhere, in areas and services more palatable to public opinion.

Now we are living with our politicians' bright idea to downsize the prison estate, leaving the country short of places to house our growing prison population.

The target for criticism is naturally the holders of the keys to Downing Street. However, the blame lies squarely with those who allowed our prisons to become run down.

Increasing prison accommodation will not be an easy task, nor will it happen overnight, especially with the UK's poor economic circumstances.

How long will public patience last, with the horrific news stories which will likely emerge, in banner headlines and in graphic detail on our TV screens?

Denis Bruce, Bishopbriggs.

High street banks dismissive of old

YOUR article ("'Massive loss' to Largs as town's last bank closes", The Herald, July 31) highlights yet another town losing banking services.

The article made the point that many vulnerable and elderly people - who do not want to bank digitally, and certainly don't feel comfortable with computer banking - will be more susceptible to scams.

A situation banks must address. After all, it is the elderly who often have the savings that keep banks in operation. So why are these banks cutting off the hand that feeds them? Ultimately they are turning their back on those loyal customers.

Not only are bank branches closing at an alarming rate, access to ATM machines are becoming scarce, which compounds the issue of a lack of banking services.

In this current cost of living crisis, many find cash is the most efficient way to keep tabs on their spending, thus being more responsible with their resources.

Yet banks are making this impossible and plunging many into financial difficulties.

Catriona C Clark, Banknock, Falkirk.

Remember when... Take That's Circus dazzled Glasgow audiences

DREW ALLAN
Selections from
The Herald Picture Store

TAKE THAT played three sold-out shows at Hampden in June 2009 during their Circus tour. As one reviewer noted, the dazzling production "borrowed from the cavalry of Canadian globetrotters Cirque du Soleil: a 200-strong crew of acrobats, musicians, dancers and technical staff laid the groundwork for an elaborate spectacle more akin to Moulin Rouge's extravagance than your average gig outing". Few who witnessed the concert could ever forget it.

Browse the Herald Picture Store at picturestore.heraldandtimes.co.uk. Email photoenquiries@heraldandtimes.co.uk

Time to relax? Burnham's taking some time away from Downing Street Picture: PA

Old coaches: time to buy back?

IT is interesting to see the idea of a sleeper service from Scotland to Europe being revived. When the channel tunnel opened, sleeper links were included from Scotland, Wales and Cornwall.

A premium lounge for this was set up in Glasgow Central station.

Full sets of sleeper coaches had been built, complete with en suite showers and TV.

Diesel locomotives were overhauled and modified to take these coaches to a depot north of London where they could be reformed for different destinations in Europe. These were never put in service and eventually all the coaches were sold to Canada at a loss.

I wonder if they are considering buying back the thirty year old coaches?

Colin Findlay, Cambuslang.

School pupils: the future's bleak

THE Herald provided good news this week.

Or perhaps that should be good-ish news, with the report that school exam results have improved on previous years ("Passes up, gaps down but still short of pre-pandemic levels", The Herald, August 5).

The 'good' part is National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher pass rates increased, a slight improvement on the previous year.

The caveat I must add – the 'ish' – is that it's becoming harder to predict the kind of future that's in store for academically inclined youngsters, even those with impressive grades.

AI will certainly eradicate numerous jobs in the years ahead.

Other possible careers will be in short supply in a UK fast becoming an embarrassing parochial backwater, as far as industry and innovation is concerned.

The more ambitious and dynamic young professionals will no doubt look abroad to seek financial recompense and career satisfaction.

Or at last they will attempt to, for we live in an increasingly hemmed-in world. Gates, fences and locked doors are springing up everywhere in the western world, as anti-immigration becomes the catechism of the modern politician, both home and abroad.

So what will intelligent high school pupils do in the future? On what will they focus their aspirations?

Unfortunately, I don't have a clue. This puzzler is harder to answer than any question posed in a high school exam.

Joseph Graham, Stirling.

Plum job in plumbing

I SEE that the latest batch of school children have received their exam results.

My advice to those who achieve excellent passes would be to avoid university, unless you plan on studying something vocational such as law, medicine or accountancy.

The snobbish elite very often looks down upon trades, though more practical employment surely provides a more financially rewarding and stable future, especially in the current economic climate.

I set up my own plumbing business when I was in my early 20s, and I am proud to say that I have never looked back.

Dave Blaine, Glasgow.

Join the debate: Letters should not exceed 500 words and must include a full address (not for publication) and contact number. Email letters@theherald.co.uk, or post to Letters, The Herald, 125 Fullarton Drive, Glasgow East Investment Park, Glasgow G32 8FG. We reserve the right to edit submissions.

COMMENT AT HERALDSCOTLAND.COM

Picture of the day

Jacki Gordon writes: 'When you get your gannets all in a row. Taken on a beautiful morning on Bass Rock'

We welcome submissions for Picture of the Day. Email picoftheday@theherald.co.uk

Even with AI, there is no need for philosophers' judgments

I CANNOT decide whether Eva Milne is just being very arrogant, or is clutching at straws, when she argues that the rise of AI has made philosophy needed, and so justified her philosophy degree. ("Everyone laughed at philosophy degrees. Then AI arrived", The Herald, July 30).

The gist of her piece is that those with philosophy degrees are needed to help us to differentiate between AI truth and AI fiction, and to have opinions on whether it is being used for good or evil. She writes that engineers are needed to build AI systems.

But she seems to believe that only philosophers have the judgement to decide which AI systems are built, how they are used, and who they should serve. I have news for Ms Milne. Not only do engineers have the judgement she reserves to philosophers, but most people also have sufficient wit to make such judgements.

So we can cope just fine without the help of philosophers. Indeed, those of us with a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education will have a rather more reasoned and rational view of AI issues than airy-fairy philosophers can ever hope to have.

Alistair Easton, Edinburgh.

Data centres: different shapes and sizes

WE were interested to read Marissa MacWhirter's commentary ("Why Scotland needs to hit pause on the data centre boom", The Herald, July 10) but felt it did not clearly differentiate between existing data centres and proposed 'hyperscale' sites, with both shown on a graphic without providing context. The map also omitted some large-scale sites.

The proposed hyperscale developments are on a different scale entirely to existing Scottish data centres.

Action to Protect Rural Scotland, cited in the article, has been very clear about these differences.

It puts existing known data centre capacity in Scotland at around 40MW, while demand from the proposed hyperscale sites is at least 100 times more.

Pulsant data centres have been providing Scottish businesses with colocation, connectivity and cloud services for more than 30 years.

Data centres come in all shapes and sizes; we feel in the interest of balanced public debate it is important to differentiate.

Mark Lewis, Chief Marketing Officer, Pulsant, Edinburgh.

Supporting the guga hunt

I APOLOGISE for writing yet again to commend the journalism of Kevin McKenna.

His thoughts on the issue of the guga hunt in particular align with my own ("Scotland's political elites seem to loathe the people and traditions of the Highlands", The Herald, August 4).

Any licensing decision regarding this historic cultural activity should lie with the local council rather than the unrepresentative, unelected, unaccountable, colonial board of NatureScot, who have led this unfortunate quango into disrepute yet again.

Ultimately, it is for the indigenous people of Ness, on the very edge of the European continent, whether to undertake the hunt this year, and into the future, rather than the central urban elite who oppose it from the comfort of their salaries, pensionable sinecures and centrally-heated offices.

I await with interest a rousing, rebel anthem from Skippinish or others as part of the fightback, and eventually, perhaps in time, the story of 'Guga Galore'.

Mr McKenna for Chair of NatureScot, say I.

Jim McGillivray, Embo, Sutherland.

A matter of life and death

I ADORE the amazing gannet seabird, and have done since I was a small child growing up on Ireland's Co Derry coast.

It is easy to see why letters or articles in this paper have celebrated the Ness gannet chick hunt being blocked in 2026.

But do we fret unduly about a few hundred gannet chicks being taken for the pot by the men of Lewis, in their traditional seabird hunt on Sula Sgeir?

I spent some time working as a relief GP in the Western Isles.

The spirituality of the Hebridean Gaeltacht had a life-changing impact on me.

I dropped my empty atheist belief system, professed belief in the New Testament creed and was moved to cease making NHS abortion referrals.

Close to one in three UK pregnancies are terminated.

Abortion is now allegedly at its highest level since 1967.

The gannet seabird has dignity, and is one more beautiful element of the created order. But look also at the dating scan on the NHS website.

Does the "human chick" not deserve protection?

James Hardy, Belfast.

Painting is MAXED out

REGARDING the Salvador Dali painting in its new Kelvingrove Art Gallery Museum location, I fear that some have been seduced by the new all-singing, all-dancing audio visual presentation which surrounds it ("Masterpiece's new home", The Herald, July 17).

I have been a volunteer guide at Kelvingrove for 21 years, but for the first time I felt I was in an IMAX cinema, not an art gallery.

The whole point of the new display for this internationally significant piece was to enhance the visitor experience.

While I believe this was the intention, the net result has been to overwhelm and diminish the picture.

Ann Ross-McCall, Glasgow.

Where you bin hiding, council?

SO, Glasgow City Council (GCC), without warning, removed our blue recycling bins. We have had no communication regarding this, and their app does not allow for asking any questions. If it did, then my questions would be:

"Why did you take our recycling bins?"

"Why did you take them without telling us?"

"What do we do with our recycling?"

"Are we ever getting them back?"

There is a huge number of households in the dark, and confused as to what to do, and what is going to happen next, and wanting to do their bit for the environment.

It was inevitable that this would happen, and could have been so easily avoided. Please put some basic communications in place, GCC.

A note per close would have been quick and effective, for example. Is there a Post-it note stuck to a tree somewhere? If yes, then that's just too subtle for me.

Jacqueline Jack, (frustrated North Kelvinside householder) Glasgow.

TNT not for me

IT is regrettable that the national broadcaster did not cover the Commonwealth Games, not because you would expect it, but because they would have done it so much better than TNT.

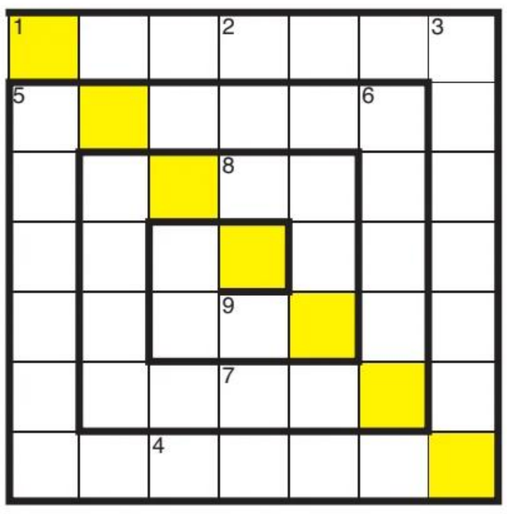
Angus MacPhee, Hamilton.

The Commonwealth Games – it didn't look so great on TV Picture: Andrew Milligan/PA Wire

TEASERS

Word Spiral

Starting from 1, fill in the grid in a clockwise direction with your answer words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next word. If you have correctly filled in the grid there should be a seven-letter keyword reading down the shaded diagonal.



1. Undergarments that might be underwired (4)
2. (Had) done the crawl or backstroke (4)
3. Combine complementary items (3,3,5)
4. Athletics event (4,4)
5. Emphasise (good points) (4,2)
6. Broth containing pulses (3,4)
7. Diplomatic etiquette (8)
8. Ill-fitting, slack (5)
9. Items laid by reptiles (4)

KEYWORD CLUE: FLOWER

Name the Celebrity

... and just for fun. Give your grey matter an extra workout. Can you think of seven things that this person is known for?

Quick Quiz

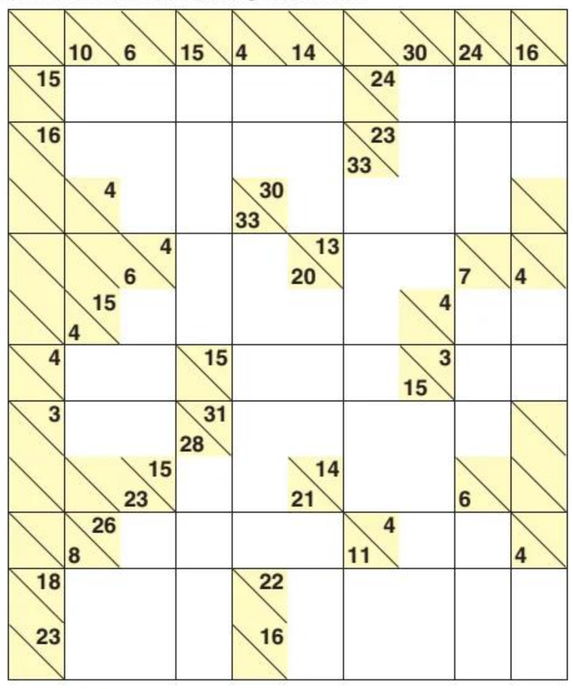
1. At what age did Mary, Queen of Scots inherit the Scottish throne?
2. The Tenrikyo religion was founded in which country?
3. What is Amazon's subscription service called?
4. What is a third molar?

Sports Quiz

1. Which town were Jamie and Andy Murray brought up in?
2. The Mets, the Jets, and the Nets are based in which city?
3. What is the colour of the Irish rugby union team's home jersey?
4. Which football team plays their home games at St. Jakob-Park?
5. Which sport's name can be translated as 'strike with foot, strike with hand, the art'?

Kakuro

Fill in the white squares with the numbers 1 to 9. Each horizontal block of squares must add up to the number in the shaded square to its left, and each vertical block must add up to the number in the shaded square above it. No number may be used more than once in any one block.



ANSWERS

Kakuro:

Word Spiral: 1 Bras 2 Swum 3 Mix and match 4 High jump 5 Play up 6 Pea soup 7 Protocol 8 Loose 9 Eggs BLOSSOM

Quick Quiz: 1. 6 days old 2. Japan 3. Prime 4. Wisdom tooth

Sports Quiz: 1. Dunblane 2. New York City 3. Green 4. FC Basel 5. Taekwondo

Name the Celebrity: Tim Robbins

PUZZLES

answers tomorrow

Sudoku

Fill in the grids so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There's no maths involved – solve the puzzle using reasoning and logic.

EASY

				7		5		
	3	9		8	4			
	6		5	9		4		8
2	8	3			1		5	
	1		6			7	8	3
		6		3		2		
8			9		7		1	
6				1	5	8	9	
	9	1			8			

HARD

			9		6			
2	7			5			1	3
8		5				6		2
		9				2		
7		2				4		5
			3		2			
1	2						6	9
	4	7				3	5	
	6			7			2	

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS:

6	4	8	3	7	1	9	5	2
2	1	3	8	9	5	6	4	7
5	9	7	6	2	4	8	1	3
1	6	9	5	3	8	7	2	4
8	3	4	7	6	2	1	9	5
7	2	5	4	1	9	3	8	6
3	8	2	9	5	7	4	6	1
9	5	6	1	4	3	2	7	8
4	7	1	2	8	6	5	3	9

1	2	5	7	6	9	3	4	8
8	9	3	2	1	4	6	7	5
7	6	4	3	5	8	1	9	2
3	8	1	4	7	6	5	2	9
9	5	6	1	8	2	4	3	7
2	4	7	5	9	3	8	1	6
5	3	2	8	4	7	9	6	1
4	1	9	6	2	5	7	8	3
6	7	8	9	3	1	2	5	4

Codeword

Codeword is a crossword with no clues. The number on each square corresponds to a letter. Fill in all the instances of the given letters, and then use your skill to crack the code and work out the rest. Cross each letter of the alphabet off as you go.

■	11	12	23	6	16	7	■	7	5	7	24	■	
9	■	2	■	23	■	16	■	13	■	14	■	■	
18	9	5	11	26	22	7	11	3	■	7	4	13	
6	■	9	■	12	■	19	■	23	■	11	■	2	
7	15	22	9	■	12	9	22	9	12	3	2	18	
6	■	■	■	1	■	21	■	25	■	9	■	12	
23	18	10	17	4	24	■	25	9	18	21	2	4	
18	■	2	■	2	■	23	■	21	■	■	■	2	
6	4	17	9	11	2	16	9	■	23	21	2	22	
22	■	4	■	1	■	14	■	13	■	9	■	22	
24	9	18	■	9	12	23	20	17 U	9	12	12	9	
■	■	7	■	13	■	14	■	4 R	■	9	■	21	
■	6	22	17	12	■	9	16	14 B	7	4	8	■	

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

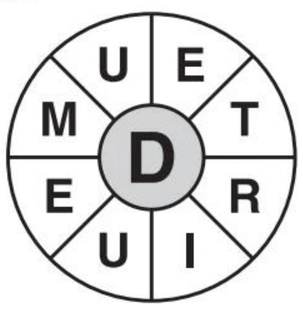
1	2	3	4 R	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 B	15	16	17 U	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION:

O	F	G	L	P	W	Q	D	N	V	M	A	R
B	U	H	S	X	Y	C	K	T	E	J	Z	I

Word Wheel

Give yourself ten minutes to find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each word must use the hub letter and at least three others, and letters may be used only once. You cannot use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found.



How you rate:
15, average
20, good
27, very good
32 or more, excellent.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION:

Acne, cane, caned, crane, craned, dance, dancer, darn, dean, drench, earn, earned, endear, erne, hand, harden, hence, nacre, near, neared, need, nerd, ranch, rand, rend, ADHERENCE.

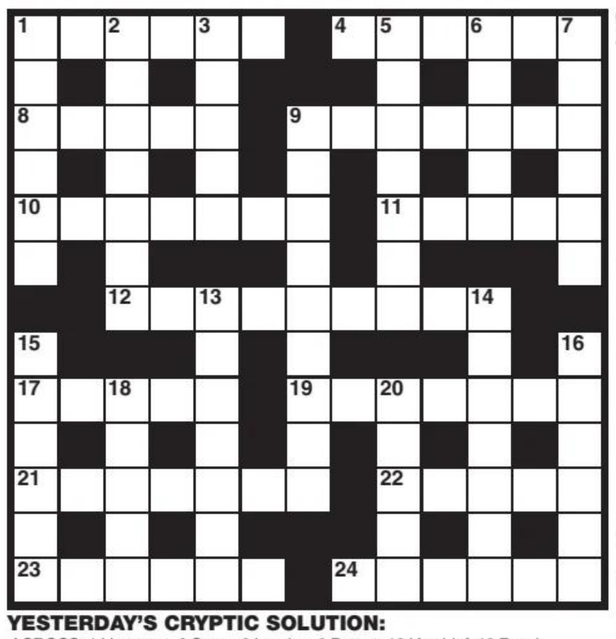
Totalize

Just follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end.

EASY	64	- 25	÷ 3	+ 245	÷ 6	- 37	× 11	Half of it	+ 296	÷ 7	ANSWER
HARDER	483	÷ 7	- 59	500% of it	+ 3255	× 2/5	+ 2706	÷ 19	- 95	Third of it	ANSWER

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS: 21, 3549

Double Crossword



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

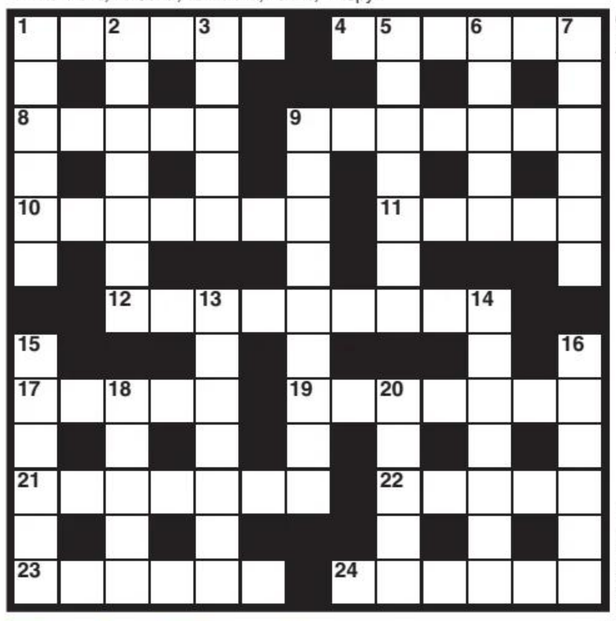
1. Two companies after return of gold for elaborate art style (6)
4. Recovered right away when united (6)
8. Hospital worker's mysterious runes (5)
9. Equipment sent off to Tom's family (7)
10. Many set out to get general pardon (7)
11. Roofer left during row (5)
12. Physical soldier captures enemy leader (9)
17. Plenty of paper to obliterate smear (5)
19. Small quantity came from lid Bert dislodged (7)
21. A nipper right to grab referee (7)
22. Marvellous embroidered purse (5)
23. Pen was first to be fashioned (6)
24. Rile with device for sewer (6)

DOWN

1. Learnt about hire charge (6)
2. Long-lasting diary minus the French (7)
3. Some acres specifically for salad plant (5)
5. Song by the Beatles, so leave it alone! (3,2,2)
6. Most of the ladies turned out to be perfect (5)
7. Mad is mad! About right to give up weapons (6)
9. Vital person with record as security officer (9)
13. Prize ribbon with flower pattern at the centre (7)
14. Gild this cushion? Or find it in the pond! (4,3)
15. Interruptions - commercial ones? (6)
16. TVs are dreadful, so go without (6)
18. Cornered travel association goes up to Yankee (2,3)
20. Children a topic of interest? (5)

YESTERDAY'S CRYPTIC SOLUTION:

ACROSS: 1 Uppercut, 6 Sawn, 8 Leaden, 9 Patent, 10 Kerchief, 13 Rend, 14 Ambulance, 17 Burr, 18 Labelled, 19 Alaska, 21 On spec, 23 Pray, 24 Everyday. DOWN:2 Prefer, 3 End, 4 Continual, 5 Tip, 6 Satirical, 7 Waning, 11 Camera shy, 12 Flat broke, 15 Cutler, 16 Helena, 20 Ate, 22 Spy.



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1. *Tinker ___ Soldier Spy*, John le Carré novel (6)
4. ___ of the Light Brigade, celebrated event of 1854 (6)
8. Blunder (5)
9. Large edible crustacean (7)
10. Absolute rule (7)
11. Unpleasant aroma (5)
12. Clearly (9)
17. Shetland ___, Scottish group (5)
19. Bead of moisture (7)
21. Going-away party (4-3)
22. Silk netting used for veils (5)
23. Stilled (6)
24. Rough, like rock (6)

DOWN

1. Sheer or opaque legwear (6)
2. Tremendous fire (7)
3. Water mass (5)
5. Associates (with) (7)
6. Fashion or design reminiscent of things past (5)
7. Oversights (6)
9. Catch at with the hands (3,4,2)
13. Rayon fabric (7)
14. Festive chocolate cake (4,3)
15. Tawdry, in bad taste (6)
16. Hard, firm (6)
18. Breathing organs (5)
20. Furthest away from the centre (5)

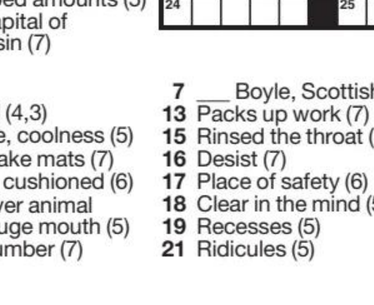
YESTERDAY'S QUICK SOLUTION:

ACROSS: 1 Sweet pea, 6 Deaf, 8 Paneer, 9 Yellow, 10 Newscast, 13 Rung, 14 Police dog, 17 Knew, 18 Asbestos, 19 Pent-up, 21 Income, 23 Inch, 24 Organism. DOWN: 2 Weaken, 3 Eye, 4 Per capita, 5 Any, 6 Delirious, 7 Abound, 11 Stopwatch, 12 Trembling, 15 Intern, 16 Cosmos, 20 Pro, 22 Con.

Train Tracks

Lay tracks to enable the train to travel from town A to town B. The numbers indicate how many sections of rail go in each row and column. There are only straight rails and curved rails. The track cannot cross itself.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION:



Cell Blocks

Divide the grid into blocks that are either square or rectangular. Each block must frame a single number, and each block must contain the same amount of cells as the number it frames.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION:

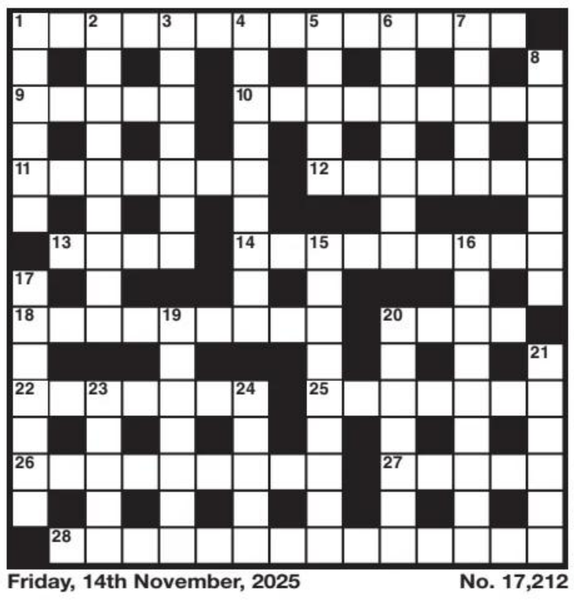
6 AUGUST 2026

CLASSIC CROSSWORD

answers below

ACROSS

1. Main indicator is dropping a design, showing preference (14)
9. Register each name, relying on late start (5)
10. Having died, tree destroyed, torn apart by defensive weapon (9)
11. A politician in vehicle given one aperitif (7)
12. South winds over US city (7)
13. Programme's storyline lost in vessel? (4)
14. Part of pitch will affect job (9)
18. Bones and green key found by Bank of Scotland! (9)
20. Graduate's quietly consuming bread rolls (4)
22. Strap on to close garment (7)
25. Shelter Henry by the glade (7)
26. Self-important European became first in charge (9)
27. Urge forward little devil to the Spanish (5)
28. Wrongly pronounce small section of newspaper (8,6)



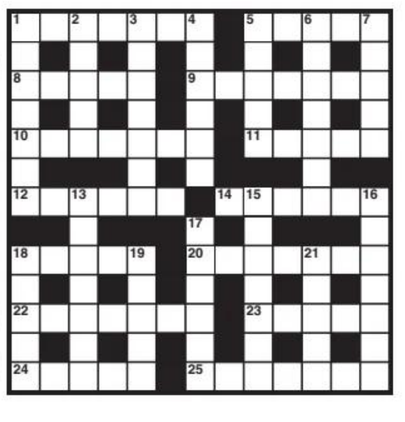
Friday, 14th November, 2025 **No. 17,212**

DOWN

1. Some children, children thoroughly wet (6)
2. Encoding device for motorbike (9)
3. Trusting, like old Robin? (7)
4. New term I'd gain inside for part of year (9)
5. Heavyweight climbing up on top of church to make a mark (5)
6. Done all the same round river (7)
7. Trove unusually open (5)
8. Treks in wild, getting bad cold (7)
15. Corrupt as the Lucian Revolution (9)
16. I am not late to join units spontaneously (9)
17. Equestrian competitor in bit of uneven terrain (7)
19. Recordings in French tests (7)
20. Trio rub out dish (7)
21. Medic has not quite isolated synthetic fabric (6)
23. You could have a hand in it (5)
24. Taken down for school report? (5)

ACROSS

1. Queued (5,2)
5. Songs of praise (5)
8. Iran's official language (5)
9. Flecks, spots (7)
10. Erstwhile (3-4)
11. Constellation known as the Hunter (5)
12. Push roughly and forcibly (6)
14. Programme of business (6)
18. Reveal (3,2)
20. Steals (apples) (7)
22. Yellow frying liquid (4,3)
23. Clingy fabric (5)
24. Prescribed amounts (5)
25. State capital of Wisconsin (7)



DOWN

1. Omitted (4,3)
2. Courage, coolness (5)
3. Paper cake mats (7)
4. Quilted, cushioned (6)
5. Bulky river animal with a huge mouth (5)
6. Huge number (7)
7. ___ Boyle, Scottish singer (5)
13. Packs up work (7)
15. Rinsed the throat (7)
16. Desist (7)
17. Place of safety (6)
18. Clear in the mind (5)
19. Recesses (5)
21. Ridicules (5)

Williams puts renovation wrongs right

Renovation Rescue
Channel 4, 8pm

MOVE over Stacey Solomon, there's a new revamp queen on the box – and she really knows her stuff.

The decluttering expert was the first presenter of Channel 4's Renovation Rescue, but it seems that, thanks to her other shows and gorgeous family, she had a good look at her schedule and realised she couldn't fit it in any more.

The programme's makers then had a look around, cast their net wide and landed a real catch in Vogue Williams – not only is she a hugely professional presenter, she has a degree in Construction Design and Management, and another in Quantity Surveying. Pretty impressive, eh?

And if that's not enough for you, she's grown up watching buildings either being constructed from scratch or being whipped into shape – her stepfather is a property developer.

Joining her is former Love Island star Luke Mabbott, who took part in 2020's sixth season, in which he came third. He's bringing the skills he honed as a heating and plumbing engineer to the party – he's also a pretty mean DIYer too.

"I've done a lot of exciting projects in my career, but I am so delighted to be given the opportunity to roll up my sleeves and get stuck into the second series of this truly brilliant show," says Vogue, who is expecting her fourth child with Spencer Matthews.

"Home renovation is a huge passion of mine, and I am excited to put my degrees in Construction and Quantity Surveying to the test! I'm very happy to be joining forces with Luke – we get on like a house on fire and I think I'm gonna learn a lot of DIY skills from him."

Luke adds: "The fact that Channel 4 are putting their trust in me to be part of this series is just mind blowing to me, but I am so excited. I can't wait to work with Vogue and help change the lives of people who need just a little bit of encouragement and some simple tips and tricks to make their dream project a reality."

The dynamic duo aren't the only people pleased to have them working together – Clemency Green, Channel 4's Commissioning Editor, thinks it's a match made in heaven: "We're really excited to bring Vogue Williams into the fold and it's going to give viewers a chance to see her phenomenal talents and skills in a completely new light. Renovation Rescue is also providing us with an opportunity to nurture exciting new talent such as Luke. I know for a fact that they will both bring their unique, warm and, most importantly, authentic flare to the format and I can't wait to see how the pair shine on screen."

In last week's opening episode, we saw their chemistry first hand. Now they work together again, this time in West Sussex, where retired artist Penny's dream home renovation has gone over budget.

Here's hoping Vogue and Luke can help her create a masterpiece.

Vogue Williams and Luke Mabbott help a retired artist with her home

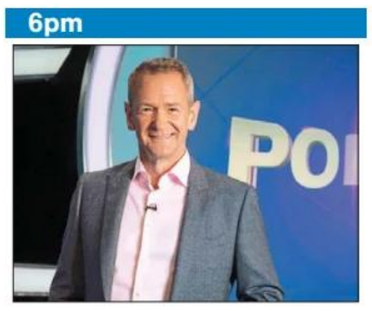
BBC 1

6.00 Breakfast News, entertainment and weather reports. (S) **9.30 Animal Park** A wallaby could be suffering from a life-threatening condition. (R) (S) (AD) **10.15 Trace, Track, Get My Car Back** (R) (S) **10.45 Expert Witness** (R) (S) **11.15 Homes Under The Hammer** Featuring properties in Norfolk, Liverpool and Birmingham. (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** Philip Serrell and Ben Cooper guide the teams around the Oswestry Showground. (R) (S)

1pm

1.00 BBC News At One; Weather (S)
1.35 Reporting Scotland; Weather (S)
1.45 BBC News At One; Weather (S)
2.00 Money For Nothing (S)
2.45 Escape To The Country A couple from Manchester look for a new home in West Yorkshire. (R) (S)
3.45 The Bidding Room (R) (S)
4.30 The Answer Run (S)
5.15 Pointless (R) (S)

6pm



Pointless, 5.15pm: Konnie Huq joins Alexander Armstrong to co-host the quiz in which contestants try to score the fewest points possible by giving the most obscure answers.

6.00 BBC News At Six; Weather (S)
6.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather (S)
7.00 River City Mulvaney is left desolate when his attempt to help Francis backfires. (R) (S) (AD)
7.30 EastEnders Sheila faces mounting pressure. (S) (AD)
8.00 Fake Or Fortune? The art detectives investigate potential works by Lucian Freud. Last in the series. (S) (AD)
9.00 Who Do You Think You Are? Katarina Johnson-Thompson travels to the Bahamas in search of her ancestry. Last in the series. (S) (AD)

10pm

10.00 BBC News At Ten (S)
10.30 Reporting Scotland; Weather (S)
10.40 Murder 24/7 The first of a two-part investigation into the 2025 murder of a Hereford man. (R) (S) (AD)
11.40 Murder 24/7 (R) (S) (AD)

Late night

12.40 Scotcast (R) (S) **1.10 Alan Carr's Picture Slam** (R) (S) **1.55 Weather For The Week Ahead** (S) **2.00 BBC News** (S)

BBC 2

6.15 Homes Under The Hammer Jacqui Joseph has a maze of doors to navigate in Kent, Martel Maxwell visits a site in Cumbria and a Derby demolition job is required at Dion Dublin's property. (R) (S) **7.15 Money For Nothing** Jacqui Joseph saves a massage bed and a dining set from the skip. (R) (S) **8.00 Sign Zone: Gardeners' World** Monty Don refreshes his borders with late-summer perennials. (R) (S) (AD) (SL) **9.00 BBC News** (S)

1pm

1.00 Richard Osman's House Of Games (R) (S)
1.30 The Finish Line (R) (S)
2.15 Do You Know Your Place? (R) (S)
2.45 The Hairy Bikers' Bakeation The duo bake their way through France. (R) (S) (AD)
3.45 The Farmers' Country Showdown (R) (S)
4.30 Vintage Antiques Roadshow (R) (S)
5.15 Flog It! (R) (S)

6pm

Digging for Britain, 8pm: Archaeological treasures in the west of Britain, including a rare medieval cemetery, a Mesolithic landscape and the ruins of a gothic masterpiece.

6.00 Richard Osman's House Of Games (R) (S)
6.30 Richard Osman's House Of Games (R) (S)
7.00 Escape To The Country A pair of budding entrepreneurs seek a move to the Cotswolds. (R) (S)
8.00 Digging For Britain A rare medieval cemetery and the ruins of a gothic masterpiece in the west of Britain. (R) (S) (AD)
9.00 The Devil In The Family: The Fall Of Ruby Franke With the Franke family isolated, outsiders try to find out what is happening. Last in the series. (S) (AD)
9.50 The Fens: A Wild Year (R) (S) (AD)

10pm

10.00 Inside No 9 A detective is determined to crack the case of a missing boy. (R) (S) (AD)
10.30 Newsnight With Paddy O'Connell. (S); Weather (S)
11.05 FILM: Women Talking (2022) Drama, starring Rooney Mara. (S)

Late night

12.40 Sign Zone: Ambulance (R) (S) (SL) **1.40 Sign Zone: Evolution** (R) (S) (AD) (SL) **2.40 This Is BBC 2** (S)

STV

6.00 Good Morning Britain Morning magazine featuring a lively mix of news and current affairs, plus health, entertainment and lifestyle features. (S) **10.00 This Morning** Daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, lifestyle features, topical discussion, health and beauty advice and more. (S)

1pm

1.30 ITV Lunchtime News; Weather (S)
1.55 STV News; Weather (S)
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson and his team are in Sheffield. (R) (S) (AD)
3.00 Deal Or No Deal (R) (S) (AD)
3.59 STV Weather Central (S)
4.00 Tipping Point Quiz, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R) (S)
5.00 The Chase Pete, Ellie, Zainudeen and Yvonne take part. (R) (S)

6pm

Tom Kerridge Cooks Italy, 7.30pm: Tom learns how farmers produce tomatoes for passata, and later heads south to cook lamb cutlets with pomegranate couscous.

6.00 STV News At Six; Weather (S)
6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (S)
7.30 Tom Kerridge Cooks Italy Tom learns how farmers produce tomatoes. (S) (AD)
8.00 Emmerdale Charity takes big steps. (S) (AD)
8.30 Coronation Street Kit extends an ominous invitation to Gary. (S) (AD)
9.00 The Chase Around The World The teams land in Paris to take on the Vixen and the Beast, who have set a series of quiz questions that the players must solve to find Bradley Walsh at the finish line. (S) (AD)

10pm

10.00 ITV News At Ten; Weather (S)
10.30 STV News; Weather (S)
10.45 FILM: Casino Royale (2006) James Bond spy thriller, starring Daniel Craig. (S) (AD)

Late night

1.10 Shop On TV 3.00 The Summit (R) (S) (AD) (SL) **3.50 Unwind With STV** (S) **5.05 Deal Or No Deal: Celebrity Special** (R) (S) (AD) (SL)

CHANNEL 4

6.30 The King Of Queens (R) (S) (AD) **7.45 Everybody Loves Raymond** (R) (S) (AD) **9.10 Frasier** (R) (S) (AD) **11.10 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA** The chef tries to restore a Texas eatery's former glory. (R) (S) **12.05 Channel 4 News Summary** (S) **12.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It** Henry Cole and Simon O'Brien visit two sisters at their south Wales workshop, where their restorations and upcycles include a Gothic-style organ and a half-size snooker table. (R) (S) (AD)

1pm

1.10 The Great House Giveaway Two strangers buy a bungalow at auction in the market town of Glossop. (R) (S)
2.10 Countdown (S)
3.00 A Place In The Sun Craig Rowe helps a couple buy a holiday home in southern Tenerife. (R) (S)
4.00 Saving Country Houses With Penelope Keith Rescuing a derelict and overgrown pond in the Cotswolds. (R) (S) (AD)
5.00 Chateau DIY (R) (S) (AD)

6pm

The Body Detectives, 10pm: The work of an organisation dedicated to revisiting forgotten cases, beginning with the disappearance of a man off the Norfolk coast in 1984.

6.00 American Pickers Mike Wolfe and Frank Fritz come across a huge 200,000-square-foot factory-turned-private collection by Woody, its dumpster diving owner. (R) (S) (AD)
7.00 Channel 4 News (S)
8.00 Renovation Rescue In West Sussex, Vogue Williams and Luke Mabbott help to salvage artist Penny's dream of a relaxing retirement near family, by the sea. (S) (AD)
9.00 Murder Case: The Digital Detectives How detectives used digital forensics to uncover the events of the night 19-year-old Matthew Daulby was fatally stabbed after a street fight in Ormskirk in July 2023. (S) (AD)

10pm

10.00 The Body Detectives The disappearance of a man off the Norfolk coast in 1984. (R) (S) (AD)
11.05 Social Media Monsters Examining serious crimes where social media has played a significant role. (R) (S) (AD)

Late night

12.05 Crime Scene Cleaners (R) (S) (AD) (SL) **1.00 Murder Case: The Digital Detectives** (R) (S) (AD) (SL) **1.55 Ramsay's Hotel Hell** (R) (S) (AD) (SL) **2.45 The Undeclared War** (R) (S) (AD) (SL) **3.35 The Undeclared War** (R) (S) (AD) (SL) **4.30 Kirstie And Phil's Love It Or List It: Brilliant Builds** (R) (S) (AD) (SL) **4.55 Couples Come Dine With Me** (R) (S) (SL)

5

6.00 Milkshake! Featuring Peppa Pig. **9.15 Jeremy Vine** The broadcaster and guests discuss the issues of the day, with phone-ins and viewers' correspondence. (S) **11.30 Storm & Alexis** Discussion and debate, presented by Storm Huntley and Alexis Conran. (S) **12.45 5 News At Lunchtime** National and international news. (S) **12.50 Matt Allwright** Debate on the day's biggest stories, and consumer advice to help viewers save money. (S)

1pm

2.20 FILM: Evil In A Small Town (2023) When her parents go missing on a family vacation, a teenager must find them – but she may be trusting the wrong people. Thriller, starring Veronica Ramirez. (S)
4.00 Castle Part one of two. A murder case is linked to serial killer Jerry Tyson. (R) (S)
4.55 Love Nature An initiative encouraging children to engage in outdoor play. (R) (S)
5.00 5 News With Dan Walker (S)

6pm

Around the World in First Class with Josie Gibson, 7pm: Josie flies upper class to Grenada, and explores a tucked-away boutique resort called 473, a private suite of villas by the sea.

6.00 Menorca: A Year In The Sun Part one of two. A profile of the Mediterranean island. (R) (S)
6.55 5 News Update (S)
7.00 Around The World In First Class With Josie Gibson Josie experiences life in Grenada. (S)
7.55 5 News Update (S)
8.00 Cornwall: A Year By The Sea At Watergate Bay, Michelin-starred chef Chris Eden and his team attempt their first beach feast of the summer. Last in the series. (S)
9.00 Benidorm Is Murder A rooftop murder exposes old grudges at a struggling comedy club. (S) (AD)

10pm

10.00 Killer At The Crime Scene The murder of a millionaire who was killed during a home invasion. (R) (S)
11.00 Murdered At First Sight A father of three who was shot in his car and later died in hospital. (R) (S)

Late night

12.05 Street Cops: Catching The Yobs (R) (S) **1.00 Cruise TV With LoveitBookit** (R) (S) **2.00 GPs: Behind Closed Doors** (R) (S) **2.50 Castle** (R) (S) **3.40 Friends** (R) (S) **4.10 Friends** (R) (S) **4.35 The Highland Vet** (R) (S) (SL) **5.25 Entertainment News On 5** (S) **5.35 Milo** (R) (S) (SL) **5.45 The Adventures Of Paddington** (R) (S) (SL)

REGIONAL VARIATIONS

BORDER SCOTLAND As STV except: 1.55 ITV News Border; Weather (S) 3.59 ITV Border Weather (S) 6.00 ITV News Lookaround; Weather (S) 10.30 ITV News Border; Weather (S) 1.10 Shop On TV 3.50 Unwind With ITV. Daily escape designed to calm the mind and encourage relaxation and reflection. (S)

ULSTER As STV except: 1.55 UTV Live; Weather (S) 3.59 UTV Weather (S) 6.00 UTV Live; Weather (S) 10.30 UTV Live; Weather (S)

FOUR OF THE BEST

Fake or Fortune?
BBC1, 8pm

Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould conclude the series by looking into the discovery of 15 unsigned prints of Lucian Freud's etching Girl with Fig Leaf in a garage. The prints were found by Somerset-based brothers Mike and Anthony Newman, and if the prints turn out to be by Freud, they could be about to make a small fortune. However, as well as being a titan of 20th century painting and one of the biggest names in the art world, Lucian Freud also led a notoriously complex and chaotic life, which makes the authentication process more difficult.

The Devil in the Family: The Fall of Ruby Franke
BBC2, 9pm

Last week focused on how Ruby's partnership with Jodi Hildebrandt helped them make money, but also sealed their fate thanks to their decision to reshape the Franke family. Now, in the final episode, attention turns to how their actions were eventually exposed. It begins with the Frankes becoming increasingly isolated from the outside world – but rather than shutting people out, it only makes the clan more fascinating. However, it's someone with insider knowledge who brings down the kingdom by alerting the authorities.

Cornwall: A Year by the Sea
5, 8pm

This week at Watergate Bay, Michelin-starred chef Chris Eden and his team attempt their first beach feast of the summer. Racing against the tides, they have just hours to transform the sand into a fine-dining restaurant for 72 guests. Meanwhile, at Scarrabine Farm near Port Quin, fourth-generation farmers Mark and Sam Williams are balancing modern tourism with generations of farming tradition. Preparations are also under way for a very special family celebration, when their 76-year-old father John marries his long-time partner, Zoe, in the family's converted wedding barn overlooking the Cornish coast.

Benidorm Is Murder
5, 9pm

There's no rest for the wicked, as Dennis Crown is beginning to realise. He thought that running away from his old life as a police detective and settling down to run a Scottish-themed bar in Benidorm would be easy, but not a bit of it – murder appears to follow him wherever he goes. After proving useful in the sun-kissed drama's opening episode, he's called on again by DS Maria Hernandez, who needs his advice when the body of a British showbiz personality is found on the roof of a local comedy club.

FILM CHOICE

Women Talking
BBC2, 11.05pm

WORDS speak louder than unspeakable actions in writer-director Sarah Polley's sensitively handled translation of Miriam Toews' novel, which harnesses the combined emotional power of an exquisitely calibrated script and a heavyweight ensemble cast. When it is discovered that the female members of an isolated religious cult have been sexually abused, the men grant the women two days to decide what they want to do. The victims trade heated opinions while schoolteacher August (Ben Whishaw) documents the discourse, quietly dampening his feelings for Ona (Rooney Mara). The family matriarchs (Sheila McCarthy, Judith Ivey and Frances McDormand), and their daughters (including Jessie Buckley and Claire Foy), are divided over whether to leave the sect, forgive the men, or stay and confront their abusers.

PEAK FREEVIEW

BBC SCOTLAND
FV 9, SKY 115, VIRGIN 108

12.00 This Is BBC Scotland 7.00 Reporting Scotland: News At Seven 7.30 Hidden Lives 8.00 Beechgrove Garden Brian Cunningham harvests his spring vegetables. **8.30 Scotland's Greatest Escape 9.00 Granite Harbour 10.00 Scot Squad. 10.30 Cumming To The Cabaret! 11.15 Scotcast 11.45 Hannah Laing: Follow The Rave 12.00 Close**

ALBA
FV 7, SKY 117, VIRGIN 161

5.00 Bing 5.15 Abadas 5.30 'S E Iasg A Th'Annam (I'm A Fish) 5.35 Cleasan Àtaidh & Tilidh (The Adventures Of Abney & Teal) 5.45 Peataichean/Pets 5.50 Stòiridh 6.00 Bogaisean Is Gumbalan (Bottersnikes And Gumbles) 6.25 Seonaidh (Shaun The Sheep) 6.35 An Saoghal Droil Aig Pol Ploc (The Rubbish World Of Dave Spud) 7.00 Dubhlain DIY (Instructions Not Included) 7.30 SpeakGaelic 8.00 An Là (News) 8.30 Mach à Seo! 9.00 Na Sgiobairean Mu Dheireadh (The Last Captains) 9.45 Rudan Beaga Bòidheach Le Niamh Mackinnon 9.55 Seòid A' Chidsin – The Kitchen Coves 10.30 Eòrpa 11.30 Transatlantic Sessions 12.00 Alba Today

BBC4
FV 24, SKY 116, VIRGIN 107

7.00 Great British Railway Journeys 7.30 Pubs, Ponds And Power: The Story Of The Village 8.00 Film: Superman (1978) **10.15 Christopher Reeve: Keeping Hope In Motion 11.15 Parkinson 12.15 Ian Rankin's Hidden Edinburgh**

ITV2
FV 6, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

5.00 The Real Housewives Of Orange County 6.00 Celebrity Catchphrase 7.00 The Floor USA 8.00 The 1% Club 9.00 Romesh Ranganathan's Parents' Evening 10.00 Changing Ends 10.35 Family Guy 11.35 American Dad! 12.35 Bob's Burgers

ITV3
FV 10, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

4.40 Classic Coronation Street 5.15 Classic Coronation Street 5.50 Heartbeat 8.00 Vera 10.00 Grantchester 11.50 Trial & Retribution 12.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot

ITV4
FV 26, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

4.40 The Professionals 5.45 Minder 6.50 River Monsters 7.50 Sharpe 10.00 The Motorbike Show 11.00 Black Sails 12.05 Hell's Kitchen

FILM4
FV 14, SKY 313, VIRGIN 428

4.50 Film: All That Heaven Allows (1955) **6.40 The Electrical Life Of Louis Wain: Interview Special 6.45 Film: The Electrical Life Of Louis Wain** (2021) **9.00 Film: Captain Phillips** (2013) Fact-based thriller, starring Tom Hanks. **11.40 Film: Dance With A Stranger** (1985)

U&DAVE
FV 19, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

5.00 Rick Stein: From Venice To Istanbul 6.00 Hairy Bikers' Best Of British 7.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing 7.40 Would I Lie To You? 9.00 QI XL With Richard Osman, Lucy Porter and Phill Jupitus. **10.00 Have I Got A Bit More News For You 11.00 Taskmaster 12.00 Mock The Week 12.40 Would I Lie To You?**

5USA
FV 21, SKY 169, VIRGIN 120

5.00 Law & Order 6.00 NCIS 9.00 Blue Bloods 10.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit

U&DRAMA
FV 20, SKY 143, VIRGIN 116

4.05 Lovejoy 5.20 As Time Goes By 6.00 Last Of The Summer Wine 8.00 The Marlow Murder Club 10.00 New Tricks 11.20 Luther 12.40 Lovejoy

U&YESTERDAY
FV 27, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

5.00 Auschwitz 6.00 Antiques Roadshow 7.00 The Green Planet 8.00 Bangers & Cash 9.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics 10.00 Bangers & Cash 12.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics

RADIO LISTINGS

RADIO SCOTLAND
MW 810; FM 92.4-94.7 6.00 Radio Scotland Breakfast. **9.00** Mornings. **12.00** Lunchtime Live. **1.30** Radio Scotland Afternoons. **4.00** Drivetime. **6.00** Get It On with Bryan Burnett. Music request show. **8.00** Travelling Folk. Folk and roots music. **10.00** Up Late. With Lynne Hoggan. **12.00** Scotcast. **12.30** As BBC Radio 5 Live.

RADIO 2
FM 88.0/90.2 6.30 The Sara Cox Breakfast Show. **9.30** Vernon Kay. **12.00** Jeremy Vine. **2.00** DJ Spoony. **4.00** Joel Dommett. **7.00** Edith Bowman's Shiny Happy Playlist. Sitting in for Jo Whiley with 30 minutes of feelgood music. **7.30** Edith Bowman. Sitting in for Jo Whiley. **9.00** The Country Show with Darius Rucker. A personal selection of fine tracks. **10.00** The Good Groove with Melvin Odoom. **12.00** Connor Phillips. **3.00** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary. **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans.

RADIO 3
FM 90.2/92.4 6.30 Breakfast. **9.30** Essential Classics. **1.00** Classical Live. **4.00** Composer of the Week: Mozart. **5.00** In Tune. **7.00** BBC Proms 2026. A semi-staged performance of Weber's Oberon. **10.00** Night Tracks. **11.30** 'Round Midnight. **12.30** Through the Night.

RADIO 4
FM 92.4-95.8 5.00 News Summary. **5.04** Sideways. **5.32** Weather. **5.34** Shipping Forecast. **5.43** Prayer for the Day. **5.45** Farming Today. **6.00** Today. **9.00** Natalie Haynes Stands Up for the Classics. **9.30** The Guitar Story. **10.00** Woman's Hour. **11.00** The Three Ages of Child. **11.45** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away. **12.00** News. **12.04** Scam Secrets. **12.32** Sliced Bread. **12.57** Weather. **1.00** The World at One. **1.45** The Bare Necessities. **2.00** The Archers. **2.15** Drama: A Portmeirion Love Affair with Life. **3.00** This Natural Life. **3.27** Radio 4 Appeal. **3.30** Feedback. **4.00** The Briefing Room. **4.30** BBC Inside Science. **5.00** PM. **5.57** Weather. **6.00** Six O'Clock News. **6.30** Icklewick FM. Chris and Amy await the arrival of the Great Zambino. **7.00** The Archers. One resident faces an emergency dash. **7.15** Front Row. Arts programme. **8.00** At Your Own Peril. Lucy Easthope explores the birth of modern risk management. **8.15** The Media Show. The latest news from the fast-changing media world. **9.00** Loose Ends. With Fiona Allen, Olly Smith and Natalie Wildgoose. **9.45** The Cows Are Mad. Events from 1995, when the government confirmed a new brain disease affecting humans. **9.59** Weather. **10.00** The World Tonight. **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Vicar of Wakefield. **11.00** Radical. **11.30** Hollywood and the Adland Five. **12.00** News. **12.30** Tony Hawks Is Giving Nothing Away. **12.48** Shipping Forecast. **1.00** As BBC World Service.

RADIO 5
MW 693/909 5.00 Wake Up to Money. **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast. **9.00** Nicky Campbell. **11.00** Adrian Chiles. **2.00** Matt Chorley. **4.00** 5 Live Drive. **7.00** 5 Live Sport. Maz Farookhi presents the day's sports news. **8.00** Rugby League. St Helens v Hull FC (Kick-off 8.00pm). **10.00** Johnny I'Anson. Sitting in for Tony Livesey. **1.00** Edward Adoo.

WORLD SERVICE
Overnight on Radio 4 1.00 The Newsroom. **1.30** The Global Story. **2.00** The Newsroom. **2.30** Tech Life. **3.00** News. **3.06** Outlook. **3.50** Witness History. **4.00** The Newsroom. **4.30** Heart and Soul.

CLASSIC FM
FM 99.9/101.9 6.30 Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker. **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame Hour with Dan Walker. **10.00** Aled Jones. **1.00** Anne-Marie Minhall. **4.00** Margherita Taylor. **7.00** Relaxing Evenings with Zeb Soanes. Zeb hosts an evening of the most relaxing music. **9.00** Classic FM's Composer Carousel With Zeb Soanes. Today's focus is Edvard Grieg, the Norwegian composer whose music evokes the spirit of his Scandinavian homeland. **10.00** Calm Classics. A selection of music. **1.00** Bill Overton. **4.00** Early Breakfast.

ABSOLUTE
Digital Only 6.00 Dave Berry. **10.00** Leona Graham. **1.00** Ben Burrell. **4.00** Bush and Richie. **7.00** Ben Coley. **10.00** Jay Lawrence. **1.00** Dan Noble.

HEART
FM 100.3-101.1 6.30 Heart Breakfast. **10.00** Amy Irons. **1.00** Cat Cubie. **4.00** David Farrell. **7.00** Dev Griffin. **10.00** Ben Atkinson. **1.00** Guy Howard.

TALKSPORT
MW 1053/1089 5.00 Early Sports Breakfast. **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Shebahn Aherne. **10.00** Adam Catterall & Carlton Cole. **1.00** Hawksbee and Baker. **4.00** talkSPORT Drive. **7.00** The Transfer Insiders. The latest transfer news and insight from those in the know. **10.00** The Sports Bar. Reaction, analysis and your chance to have your say on the day's sport. **1.00** Extra Time with Paul Ross.

RADIO NAN GAIDHEAL
FM 103.6-104.9 7.30 Aithris na Maidne. **9.00** Naoi gu Deich. **10.00** A' Mire ri Mòir. **12.00** Feasgar an-diugh. **1.30** Caithream Ciùil. **3.30** Spòrscast. **4.00** Beartas Ghuthan. **5.00** Aithris an Fheasgair. **5.30** Siubhal gu Seachd le Pluto. **7.00** Rapal. Òrain ùra gu leòr. **9.00** A' Mire ri Mòir. Tha i beachdail, tha i beòthail agus tha i feitheamh ribh le taghadh ciùil. **10.55** Naoi gu Deich. Còmhradh, deasbad, cultar agus cur-seachadan. **11.50** Mar Radio Alba. Tha BBC Radio nan Gaidheal mar BBC Radio Alba.

SMOOTH RADIO
FM 105.2 6.00 John McCauley. **9.00** Golden Hour. **10.00** Kate Garraway. **1.00** Paul Phear. **4.00** Angie Greaves. **7.00** Smooth Sanctuary at 7 with Darren Parks. **10.00** The Smooth Late Show with Martin Collins. **1.00** Paul Hollins.

Safari park is cleared over welfare claims

From our archives

5 years ago

A FOUR-month investigation into animal welfare at Blair Drummond Safari Park has found "no ongoing issues". The probe was launched in March after complaints about the deaths of four animals between 2016 and 2020. The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (Biaza) said many of the complaints were historical and improvements had already been made. The park said the findings ended a "deeply upsetting time" for its keepers and staff. Biaza said some procedures and processes at the park needed to improve and has placed it under mentorship for three years.

10 years ago

A CAMPAIGN to attract more gay football fans into stadiums has been launched amid frustration about the lack of professional players to have come out. Match-day programmes across the country will today contain a welcome message to all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) supporters as the first games of the Scottish season get under way. The advert, run in conjunction with the Scottish Football Association, will say: "Plays for the other team ... supports yours." To date, English forward Justin Fashanu, who played for Nottingham Forest and Airdrie, remains the highest-profile UK football star to state publicly that he was gay.

25 years ago

THE event billed as the largest arts festival on the planet got off to a colourful start yesterday, with tens of thousands of people lining the streets of Edinburgh for the traditional cavalcade. A more off-beat programme of comedy, drama, music, and visual arts is promised from this year's line-up, which famously blends the bizarre offerings of student troupes with the cream of professional theatre companies. More than 150,000 people crammed into the centre of the city to see the Fringe, now in its 55th year, get off to a start with Edinburgh's ice hockey team roller-blading along Princes Street. They were followed by a procession of more than 2,500, including the entire cast of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

50 years ago

THE government has given the long-awaited go-ahead for the project to house Glasgow's priceless Burrell art collection. With the help of a 50% government grant towards the net cost of the building, Glasgow District Council has now been authorised to make a start early in the financial year 1978-79. When the £9.6 million scheme is completed, three-and-a-half years later, it will be the first gallery of its type built this century in Britain. The announcement, in the House of Commons by Mr Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, was enthusiastically welcomed.

100 years ago

IT is a sign of the abiding vitality of Mr Bernard Shaw that, at a time when he seems to be in danger of reaching that stage of public appreciation when the most outrageous thing he cares to say is dismissed with a shrug as merely another example of his delightful but peculiar form of wit, his work still retains the power to arouse active hostility. It was probably that vital force in his writing which induced one or two members of the audience at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, last night, when the Macdona Players produced "The Doctor's Dilemma", to hiss some of the biting epigrammatic thrusts at conventional morality which he put into the mouths of one or two characters in that play.

Birthdays

Sir Chris Bonington, mountaineer, 92; Ron Davies, Welsh former politician, 80; Oliver Tobias, actor, 79; Reece Dinsdale, actor, 67; Michelle Yeoh, actress, 64; Geri Halliwell, singer-songwriter/actress, pictured, 54; Robin van Persie, former footballer, 43.

On this day

1504: Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury, was born. He had an extremely long nose and was extremely inquisitive, hence the expression "Nosey Parker".
1637: The first Poet Laureate, Ben Jonson, died in poverty.
1844: The first press telegram in Britain was sent to The Times, announcing the birth of Prince Alfred to Queen Victoria.
1859: "Worth a guinea a box" appeared on Beecham's Powders packets – the first known advertising slogan.
1881: Alexander Fleming, Scottish bacteriologist who discovered penicillin, was born.
1889: The Savoy Hotel in London opened.
1890: Murderer Walter Kemmler was the first man to die in the electric chair, at Auburn Prison, New York.
1931: Bix Beiderbecke, legendary jazz trumpeter, died aged 28 from a combination of pneumonia and alcoholism.
1932: The first film festival was held in the Hotel Excelsior, Venice.
1945: The first atomic bomb was dropped, on Hiroshima, Japan, from a B29 bomber Enola Gay.
1962: Jamaica gained independence after being a British colony for more than 300 years.
2011: A march in protest of the death of Mark Duggan in Tottenham, sparked a wave of rioting throughout the country over the following few days.
ON THIS DAY LAST YEAR: George And Mildred star Norman Eshley died at the age of 80, his agent said. The actor and writer, who had cancer, died on August 2 at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital with his wife Rachel Eshley by his side, his agent Thomas Bowington told the PA news agency.

Announcements

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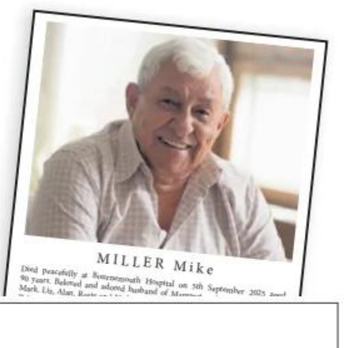
Death notices now include a **FREE PHOTO**



DEATHS Notices

ALLISON - Joseph Philip Sloan (Philip)

Died peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Sunday 26th July 2026. Husband to Carol; father to Austyn, Catherine, Joe, Peter; brother to Louise; doting Grandaddy. Retired Headmaster of St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh; deputy head of Belhaven Hill, Dunbar; taught at Watson's and Heriot's.
Funeral Monday 17th August, 12 noon at Warriston Crematorium. No flowers but donations to RNLI.
A livestream of service available from https://watch.obitus.com Username: rani0939 Password: 056957

MACKIE - Margaret Jean

Peacefully, on 23rd July 2026, Margaret Jean Mackie, aged 89 years, beloved wife of the late Bill Mackie, loving mother of Elizabeth, Jane and Ruth, beloved mother-in-law, cherished grandma and great-grandma, dear sister of Norma, and friend to so many. Margaret will be sadly missed by family and friends and fondly remembered by all. In accordance with Margaret's wishes, a closed private family funeral will be held.

THWAITES - Fiona Kumang

Passed away peacefully at Marie Curie Hospice on Saturday 25th July 2026. Beloved partner of Tom, much loved Sister to Bob and Nigel, dear Aunt to Sam and Jonny.
Funeral Service at Glasgow Crematorium, Maryhill on Monday 10th August at 1.30pm, to which family and friends are respectfully invited. No flowers please however donations in lieu to Revive MS Support and Marie Curie.

Our team are here to help and guide you and your family during this difficult time.

Call our friendly and helpful Family Announcements team on
0141 302 6000
E: announcements@heraldandtimes.co.uk

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BLACK
Maureen Rachel Newlands
(née Burke)

Passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones in Dunoon on Thursday, 30th July 2026, aged 80.
Beloved wife of Iain, much loved mother of Michael, Susan, Maureen and Douglas and cherished granny and GG.
Funeral Service will be held in Our Lady & St Mun's R.C. Church, Dunoon, on Monday, 10th August 2026 at 10am, and thereafter to Dunoon Cemetery, to which all are respectfully invited.

MILLER - Robert 'Bob'

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Bob, on 14th July 2026, aged 76 years. Beloved husband of Margaret and much loved dad, father in law and papa. Sadly missed by all who knew him.
Funeral service at Holmsford Bridge Crematorium by Dreghorn on Wednesday 12th August 2026 at 11.30am, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited.
Family flowers only please.

SCRIPTURE Text

Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool;
He is holy.
Psalm 99 v 5 (NIV)

Our team are here to help and guide you and your family during this difficult time.

Call our friendly and helpful Family Announcements team on
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Milestone birthday coming up?

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Strong miners offset weak Asia-focused financials

THE FTSE 100 edged higher yesterday, with gains in Next and mining stocks offsetting a drag from lower Asia-focused finance stocks.

The FTSE 100 index closed up 8.92 points, 0.1%, at 10,888.30. The FTSE 250 ended up 173.33 points, 0.7%, at 24,632.63, while the Aim All-Share closed up 7.42 points, 1.0%, at 781.78.

Brighter economic data gave London a lift with the UK services PMI business activity index, issued by S&P Global, rising to 52.1 points in July from 48.8 in June, above the flash estimate of 51.8.

New business increased for the first time since February, supported by stronger demand for technology services and tentative signs of a recovery in consumer spending.

The UK composite PMI output index, combining manufacturing and services, rose to 52.2 points from 49.3 in June, also slightly above the flash estimate of 52.1. Earlier this week, data showed the UK manufacturing PMI eased to 51.9 in July from 52.5 in June.

Rob Wood, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said the PMI signal is "remarkably healthy", and the fractional upward revision to the flash release "surprising", given oil prices rising in July as US-Iran hostilities restarted.

The pound traded at $1.3466 yesterday afternoon, up from $1.3445 at the equities close on Tuesday. Against the euro, sterling fell to €1.1663 from €1.1674. The euro stood higher at $1.1545 against $1.1517. Against the yen, the dollar was little changed at 157.58 yen, compared to 157.56 yen.

Retailer Next gained 5.7% as it raised profit guidance once again Picture: PA

Oil prices continued to edge lower as investors weighed the chances of a US-Iran deal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz. Brent oil for October delivery traded lower at $79.47 a barrel yesterday, from $80.60 on Tuesday.

In European equities, the Cac 40 in Paris closed up slightly, while the Dax 40 in Frankfurt ended 0.3% lower.

Stocks in New York were mostly higher. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 0.9%, the S&P 500 index was 0.2% higher, and the Nasdaq Composite was little changed.

The yield on the US 10-year Treasury narrowed to 4.63% yesterday from 4.64% on Tuesday. The yield on the US 30-year Treasury fell to 5.17% from 5.20%.

Back in London, Next gained 5.7% as it raised profit guidance once again. The Leicester-based clothing and homewares retailer, led by chief executive Simon Wolfson, has made a habit of under-promising and over-delivering, giving 19 profit guidance upgrades since the start of financial 2024 before yesterday's made it 20.

In a trading statement, Next said full price sales were up 9.2% in the 13 weeks to August 1, the second quarter of its financial year, compared with the year prior, "materially" ahead of its 4% prior growth forecast.

JPMorgan analyst Georgina Johanan said: "We think this compares to investor expectations for (greater than) 6%, and is certainly at the very upper end of expectations."

Online international growth led the way, with revenue up 37% on-year, while revenue in the UK was up a more modest 2.8%.

Next put the strong sales down to the weather in the UK being as warm as last year, the release of some pent-up demand in the Middle East and Northern Europe after a weaker first quarter, and more profitable marketing than anticipated.

AJ Bell investment director Russ Mould said Next's playbook as a public company "looks simple on the face of it but its ability to pull off the under-promise and over-deliver trick time after time is anything but".

Rising metal prices boosted miners for the second day in a row, with upbeat results from Glencore adding to the positive mood.

Gold was higher at $4,255.64 an ounce yesterday from $4,078.23 on Tuesday. The price of silver rose 4.9%, and copper increased 0.9%.

Gold miners Endeavour Mining and Fresnillo climbed 5.7% and 4.5%, while Glencore added 4.1%.

Glencore declared a special dividend and announced a new share buyback, along with plans for an Australian listing.

In a research note, JPMorgan analyst Dominic O'Kane said the creation of an Australian secondary listing will reignite expectations of "corporate optionality, including M&A and a coal de-merger".

Holding the FTSE 100 back were losses in Asia-focused financial stocks, with Prudential, HSBC and Standard Chartered down 6.4%, 4.7% and 1.6% respectively.

Caixin Global reported that Chinese mainland tax authorities have started levying personal income tax on the returns of offshore insurance policies, closing a longstanding regulatory loophole.

This follows July's move by China's Ministry of Finance to materially tighten personal income tax rules governing offshore trusts.

Citigroup banking analyst Andrew Coombs noted the impact on sentiment from the headlines but thinks the eventual impact on earnings is likely to be small.

Mr Coombs had earlier downgraded HSBC to "neutral" from "buy", and thinks it is time to "take a pause" on the stock with shares up 40% year to date.

"For a further re-rating from here we believe one needs to believe in a period of more rapid top-line growth and while there are some encouraging signs, we believe this will take time to materialise," Mr Coombs wrote in a research note.

On the FTSE 250, 4Imprint led the way, up 11%, after it said it expects full-year revenue and earnings to come in above current market expectations after an encouraging first half of 2026.

Among smaller companies, B90 Holdings climbed 3.5%.

The online gaming firm said first-half trading had been strong and now expects revenue to exceed market expectations.

The company added that first-half Ebitda should be broadly comparable with the prior year despite continued investment in technology, with its iGaming business continuing to provide a profitable base.

The biggest risers on the FTSE 100 were Next, up 850p at 15,660p; Endeavour Mining, up 206p at 3,842p; Fresnillo, up 118p at 2,747p; Glencore, up 22.7p at 573.3p; and Coca-Cola HBC, up 189p at 5,015p.

The biggest fallers on the FTSE 100 were Prudential, down 70p at 1,025p; HSBC, down 74p at 1,510.6p; Autotrader, down 15.2p at 520p; Convatec, down 5.6p at 223.8p; and Vodafone, down 2.5p at 114.4p.

CLOSING PRICES

Company	Price	Var	Year High	Year Low
3i Group	2922	+36	4459	2082
3i Infrastructure	383 ½	-½	393 ½	326
4imprint	4890	+500	4890	3055
Aberdeen Group	254 ⅜	+2 ⅝	261	182
Aberforth Smlr Cos	1714	+8	1756	1418
Abrdn Diversified	12 ¼		49 ⅛	12 ¼
Admiral Gp	3706	-36	3802	2644
Airtel Africa	327	-6 ⅜	420 ¼	207
AJ Bell	606	+14	643	414 ⅜
Alfa Financial	165	+⅝	248 ½	142 ⅜
Alliance Witan	1386	+4	1395	1188
Allianz Tech	720	+8	758	445 ½
Anglo American	4021	+114	4225	2123
Antofagasta	4050	+119	4455	1974
AO World	97 ⅞	+¾	113 ¼	83 ⅜
Ashmore Gp	217	+3 ⅜	266 ¾	153 ½
Ashoka India	258	+1 ½	285 ½	217
ASOS	376	+13	383	206 ½
Aston Martin	34 ¼	-¼	86	34 ⅛
AstraZeneca	12036	+296	15542	10922
Auction Tech	461 ⅜	-9	483 ¾	263
Autotrader Group	520	-15 ¼	836 ¾	427 ¼
B&M	232 ¼	+1 ¼	264 ⅛	155 ¼
Babcock Intl Grp	1185 ½	+5	1502	921
BAE Systems	2156	-28	2331	1609 ½
Baillie Gif Japan	1070	+14	1071	834
Baillie Gifford US	318 ½	+2	366 ½	261 ½
Balfour Beatty	879 ½	+9 ½	899	553
Baltic Classifieds	210 ¾	-1 ⅝	356 ½	170 ¾
Bankers InvTst*	152 ⅝	+1	152 ¾	121 ¾
Barclays	527 ½	+5 ¼	545 ¼	357 ¾
Barr (AG)	615	+5	710	598
Barratt Redrow	315 ¼	+½	409 ⅜	241 ¼
Beazley	1290	-1	1303 ¼	769
Bellway	2084	-4	2868	1715
Berkeley Gp Hldgs	3584	-46	4434	3104
BH Macro	416 ½	-1 ½	462 ½	388
BH Macro (USD)	4 ¼		4 ⅝	4
Big Yellow Gp	909 ½	-½	1180	812
Biopharma Credit	72 ¼	-⅛	74	66 ⅞
BlackRock Greater Eur IT	606	+2	624	516
BlackRock Smaller Co*	276 ½	+3 ½	354 ½	66 ⅛
BlackRock Wld Mining	956	+40	1046	555
Bloomsbury*	637	+7	672	438 ½
Bodycote	923	+173	923	601
BP	514 ⅞	-10 ⅛	606 ¼	410 ½
Breedon	344	-3 ⅜	377	273
Bridgepoint Group	341 ⅝	-2 ⅜	348 ¾	222 ⅝
British Land	448	-¼	448 ¼	321 ¼
Brunner Inv Tr*	1572	+8	1572	1354
BT Gp	201 ¼	-1	239 ½	2
Bunzl	2824	+30	2872	1989
Burberry Gp	1209	-1 ½	1360	1004 ½
Bytes Tech	416 ¼	+8	427 ¼	253 ⅝
Caledonia Inv*	386 ½	+½	391 ½	312
Centrica	151 ½	-1 ⅜	218 ¾	151 ½
Chemring Gp	630	+16 ½	630	460
City of London IT*	593	-2	595	488
Clarkson	4996	-79	5155	3395
CMC Markets*	697	+16	749	206
Coats Group	83 ⅛	+1 ½	95 ⅛	71 ¾
Coca-Cola	5015	+189	5190 ½	3306
Computacenter	4812	+34	4866	2242
Convatec	223 ¾	-5 ⅝	256 ⅜	194
CPP Group	20		154 ½	13
Cranswick*	5290	+20	5690	4840
Crest Nicholson	63 ⅞	-¾	185 ⅜	61 ¼
Croda International	3289	-33	3330 ½	2439
Currys	162 ¾	+¼	168 ¼	106 ⅞
CVS Group	1289	+9	1424	1114
DCC Energy	6385	+15	6385	4350
Deliveroo	179 ¾		179 ¾	176 ¾
Derwent London	2112	-34	2205	1509
Diageo	1641	+5 ½	2121	1362 ½
Dignity*	549		549	549
Diploma	7675	+100	7675	5015
discoverIE Gp	823	+24	823	514
Dominos Pizza	212	-8	220	167 ¼
Dr. Martens	80 ⅝	+1 ¼	99 ⅜	60 ¾
Drax Gp	719 ½	+3	918	626 ½
Dunelm Gp	892 ½	+6 ½	1241	715
Ecora Royalties	148 ⅝	+7 ⅝	152 ⅝	65 ¾
Edin Inv Trust	854	+1	860	760
Edin Wwide	243 ½	-½	290 ½	188
Endeavour Mining	3842	+206	5290	2434
Energean	728 ½	-19 ½	1026	683 ½
EnQuest	22 ½	-⅜	27 ¾	9 ¾
Entain	537	-11 ⅝	996	521
Essentra	108		113	79 ⅞
Euro Sml Co.*	237 ½	-1 ½	246 ½	197
European Opp	937		957	782
Experian	2851	-9	3982	2375
F&C Investment	343 ¾	+5	351 ¾	82 ¼
Fidelity China SPE	264 ½	-5 ½	332 ½	245
Fidelity Emg	1426	-10	1562	835
Fidelity Eur	438	+3	441 ½	372
Fidelity Spec Val	470	+1 ½	470	372
Finsbury G&I Tst	817	+7	915	713
Foresight Env	86 ⅜	+¾	88 ¼	61 ⅞
Foresight Group	495 ½	+3	495 ½	345
Foresight Solar*	71 ½	+½	88	60
Frasers Group	813	-13	827 ½	618 ½
Fresnillo	2747	+118	4448	1378
Games Workshop*	19010	-20	21940	14200
Gamma Comms	970		1106	701
GCP Infra Inv	83 ⅝		83 ¾	70
Genuit Group	296 ¾	+3 ⅜	389 ½	243 ¼
Genus	2260	+56	3170	1966
Glencore	573 ¼	+22 ¾	615	280 ½
Global Smaller	197 ¼	+3 ⅝	197 ¾	163 ⅝
Globaldata	83 ¼	+⅜	151 ½	63 ⅝
Goodwin	18780	+240	27600	9100
Grafton Grp Units	1029 ¼	+13 ⅝	1029 ¼	808 ⅜
Grainger	174 ¼	-½	211	150 ⅜
Greencoat UK	115 ⅞	+⅛	118 ¼	92 ¼
Greencore Gp	260 ⅝	-1 ⅜	306 ½	192
Greggs	1933	-13	2032	1418
GSK	1915 ½	+1	2268	1383
Haleon	365 ¾	+8	410 ⅞	320 ⅞
Halfords	245	+1	245	127 ⅝
Halma*	3800	+58	4878	3210
Hammerson	378 ⅜	-2	385 ⅝	267 ¾
Harbour Energy	232 ¼	-4	318 ¾	185 ⅞
Harbourvest Glb	3445	+15	3450	1707
Harworth	143 ⅝	+8 ⅝	189 ½	120
Hays	60 ⅛	-⅜	64 ⅝	29 ⅝
Helios Towers	195 ¼	-2 ¾	245 ⅜	119 ¾
Herald Inv Trust	3060	+25	3260	2305
HG Capital Trust	392	+2	522	323
HICL Infr	139 ⅜	+¼	139 ⅝	109
Hikma Pharma	1571	-10	1851	1191
Hill & Smith	3010	+85	3045	1968
Hilton Food Gp	608 ½	+2 ½	857	456
Hiscox	1791	+14	1899	1273
Hochschild Mining	479 ⅝	+28 ¼	808 ½	272 ⅝
Hollywood Bowl	292 ½	+3 ½	307 ½	234 ½
Howden Joinery Gp	833	+11 ½	970	723 ½
HSBC Hldgs	1510 ⅝	-74	1597 ⅜	934 ¼
Hunting	444	-4 ½	531	297
ICG	2048	+36	2332	1463
ICG Enterprise Trust	1462	+16	1600	1310
IMI	3084	+62	3084	2224
Imperial Brands	2747	+11	3341	2668
Inchcape	843 ½	+3	890	640 ½
Informa	911 ⅝	+4	993 ⅜	739 ¾
Integrafin Holdings	383	+8 ½	392	298 ½
Intercontl Htls	160 ¼	+3 ½	10585	128 ⅜
Intertek Gp	5840		5840	3582
Intl Cons Airl	444 ½	+5 ⅞	488	342 ¼
Intl Personal Fin	250		255	198 ¼
Intl Public Prtnshps	144 ⅝	+¼	144 ⅝	117 ¼
Intl Workplace Gp	188 ¾	+2	249 ⅜	168 ¾
Invensys	509 ½		509 ½	509 ½
Invesco Asia Dragon	497 ½	-1	516	372
Investec	675 ½	+3 ½	675 ½	518
IP Group	68 ⅝	+1 ⅜	70 ⅝	48 ⅝
Ithaca Energy	228 ¼	-3 ¼	285 ⅝	153 ¾
ITV	72	-1 ⅜	85 ¼	67 ⅜
JD Sports Fashion	92 ¾	+1 ½	104 ½	65 ¼
Johnson Matt*	2154	+54	2388	1765
Johnson Service Gp	150 ⅞	-¾	170 ⅛	125 ⅝
JP Morgan Glbl Gth	637	+6 ½	637	535
JP Morgan Japan IT	831	+4	839	656
JPM American*	1248	+6	1248	1048
JPM Asia*	574	+4	650	394 ½
JPM Emerging Markets*	165 ¼	-¼	180 ¼	119 ¼
JPM Euro Disc.	632	-1	663	557
JPMorgan EMEA	249	+3	301	196
JTC	1336	+8	1366	897
Jupiter Fund Mngt	164 ¼	+3	195 ¼	115 ⅝
Kainos Gp	893 ½		1190	683
Keller Group	3080	+30	3444	1282
Kenmare Resources	198	-1 ¼	337	180 ¾
Kier Gp	247 ¾	+1 ¼	252 ½	180 ¾
Kingfisher	322 ¾	+1 ¾	370 ½	243 ¼
Lancashire Hldgs	593 ½	+1	694	565
Land Securities	722	+1 ½	729 ¾	529
Law Debenture	1268	+6	1268	982
Legal & General	305 ¼	+2 ⅜	306 ⅝	233 ⅝
Lion Finance	12020	+20	12090	7020
Lloyds Banking Gp	117 ⅛	+	119 ⅜	78 ½
London Stock Exch	8628	+128	9992	7170
LondonMetric Prop	197 ¾	-⅜	215	177 ½
M&G	364 ⅜	+2	364 ⅜	248 ⅝
Man Group	316	+5 ¼	325 ⅜	154 ¾
Marks & Spencer	409 ⅜	-¾	411 ⅝	308 ⅞
Marston's	52	+1 ⅛	68 ⅞	36 ⅛
ME Group	123 ¼	-1	218 ½	100 ¼
Melrose Ind	490 ⅞	+10 ¼	681 ¾	448 ¼
Mercantile IT	285	+3 ½	285	237
Merchants Tst*	678	+2	678 ½	537
Metlen Energy & Metals	48 ⅜	+⅜	56 ¼	31 ¾
Metro Bank	177 ¾	+6 ⅝	179 ⅝	100
Michael Page	187 ¾	+⅝	272 ¾	103 ⅛
Mitchells & Butlers	282 ½	-½	301	228
Molten Ventures	647 ½	+15	649	349 ¾
Monks Inv Tst	1638	+18	1656	1372
Mony Group*	206 ¾	+3 ⅜	213	144 ½
Moonpig	283	+3 ¾	283	192 ⅝
Morgan Advanced	240	+4	243 ½	187 ⅜
Morgan Sindall Gp	4464	+64	5530	4050
Mothercare	¾	-⅛	3 ⅜	⅝
National Grid	1187 ½	-½	1400	1010 ½
NatWest Group	713 ¾	-2 ¼	722 ¾	505 ¼
NCC Grp	142 ¼	-¾	157 ¾	113 ¾
Neuberger Private Eqty Partners*	1490		1632	1302
Next	15660	+850	15845	11575
Next Energy Solar	49 ⅝	+¼	77 ⅞	44
Ninety One*	220 ¾	+1 ¾	259 ⅜	185 ½
Nth Atlantic Smlr	431	+8	431	330
Oakley Capital Inv	534	+12	576	169
Ocado Gp	211 ¾	+7 ¼	395 ⅝	159 ¼
Old Mutual	60 ¼	-1 ¾	77 ¾	50 ¾
OSB Group	569	+2	643 ½	484 ¼
Oxford Biomedica	574	+8	913	430
Oxford Instruments*	2872	+52	3302	1766
Oxford Nanopore	117	+¼	219	104 ½
Pacific Horizon	1118	+20	1252	654
Pantheon Infra	112 ⅝		119 ⅜	101
Pantheon Intl	397	+½	407 ½	323 ½
Paragon	840 ½	-5 ½	926 ½	711 ½
Partners Group	624	+8	942	593
Patria Private	614		642	536
Paypoint	607	-14 ½	822	438 ½
Pearson	1239	+11 ½	1326	891 ⅝
Pennon Gp*	457 ⅝	-1 ⅝	600	446
Pershing Square	3942	-8	5090	3642
Persimmon	1123	-20 ½	1543 ½	998 ⅝
Personal Assets Tr	554	+4	554	509
Pets at Home Gp	213 ¼	+1 ¼	236 ⅝	170 ⅞
Playtech	365 ¾	-11 ¼	436 ½	232
Plus500	3916	+42	5070	2942
Polar Cap Tech	680	+11	733 ½	388 ½
Polar Capital Gl	250 ½	-2 ½	253 ¼	203
Pollen Street	840	-1	964	702
PPHE Hotel Gp	1542	+8	2060	1286
Premier Oil	232 ¼	-4	318 ¾	185 ⅞
Primary Hlth Prop*	95 ⅝	+	108 ¼	87 ½
Prudential	1025	-70	1220	916
QinetiQ*	546 ½	+4	549 ½	406
Quilter	202 ⅝	+5 ⅛	208 ¼	154 ⅜
Rank Gp	100	-⅝	155	88 ⅛
Raspberry Pi	674 ½	-12	1051	257 ¼
Rathbone Grp	1692	+18	2265	1582
Reckitt Benckiser	5342	+70	6681 ¾	4443
RELX	2715	+15	3666	2013
Renewables Infra	78 ⅛	+¼	81 ¾	63 ½
Renishaw	5180	-35	5455	2940
Rentokil Initial	369 ⅛	-1 ¼	506 ¾	344 ¾
RHI Magnesita	3035	+200	3345	1980
Rightmove	475 ⅞	+1 ⅛	818 ⅜	404
Rio Tinto	7511	+198	8308	4448 ½
RIT Cap Partners	2600	-15	2615	1942
Rolls-Royce	1570 ⅜	+41	1570 ⅜	1026
Rotork	486 ¾	+⅝	488	288 ⅜
RS Group	741 ½	+13 ½	743 ½	541 ½
Ruffer Investment	297 ½	+5	313 ½	283 ½
SABMiller	4498 ¼		4498 ¼	4498 ¼
Safestore Hldgs*	637 ½	+9	837	582
Sainsbury(J)	356	+½	359 ⅜	293 ¾
Savills	976	+32	1108	808
Schroder Asia	828		888	600
Schroder Oriental*	454	+2 ½	459	302 ½
Schroders	589 ½	+½	612 ½	361 ¼
Scot American Inv	566		566	487
Scottish Mortgage	1379 ½	-3 ½	1545	1028 ½
SDCL Efficiency	39	+¼	63	32
Segro	971 ¾	-3	1005 ½	604 ⅜
Senior	292	-½	311	164 ⅝
Sequoia Econ Infra*	87	-½	87 ½	75 ¾
Seraphim Space	181	+9	273 ½	66 ¾
Serco	242 ⅝	-3 ⅜	324 ¾	216
Severn Trent	3082	+32	3280	327
Shaftesbury	146	-¾	157 ¾	126 ¼
Shell	3280 ½	-41	3583	2562
SIG	8 ⅝	+¼	12 ¼	7 ½
Sirius Real Estate	101 ⅜	-⅜	111 ⅞	91
Smith & Neph	1108 ½	-13 ½	1435	1073 ½
Smiths Gp	2699	+11	2746	2118
Soco Intnal	31 ½	-⅛	31 ¾	19
Softcat	1975	+26	1987	1091
Spirax Group	7345	+55	7960	6060
Spire Health	232 ½	+2 ½	249	142 ¾
Spirent Comms	198 ¾		198 ¾	194
SSE*	2342	-14	2757 ½	1612
SSP Group	211 ¾	+2 ¼	211 ¾	138 ⅝
St James Place	1135 ½	+31 ½	1553	1053 ½
Standard Chartered	2212	-36	2296 ½	1305 ½
Standard Life	929	+7 ½	934	619
Sthree	270	+4 ½	271 ¼	137 ⅜
Supermarket Inc.*	86 ¾	+⅛	88 ⅞	76 ¾
Syncona	106	-⅝	109 ¾	86 ⅞
Target Healthcare	112 ⅜	-1 ⅜	116	92 ¾
Tate & Lyle	553 ½	+1	569	329 ⅜
Taylor Wimpey	82 ⅞	+1 ½	116 ½	74 ⅛
TBC Bank Group	4858	-114	5180	3640
TELECOM PLUS	859	-2	1892	710
Temple Bar	419 ½	-½	422	331 ½
Templeton Emerg	316 ½	+1 ½	350	197 ¾
Tesco	480 ¾	+1 ¾	501 ¾	406 ⅞
The Sage Group	1013	+3 ½	1198 ½	783 ⅝
TP ICAP	345 ¼	+5 ¾	355	240 ½
TR Property IT	318 ½	-3	361 ½	295
Trainline	248 ⅜	+⅝	300	185 ½
Travis Perkins	666 ½	-12	714	507 ½
Tritax Big Box	171 ¾	-¼	173 ¼	133 ¼
Trustpilot	292 ⅝	+13	292 ⅝	129 ¼
Twentyfour	107 ¾	-⅜	114 ¾	104 ⅝
Unbound	¾		¾	¾
Unite Group	541	+3 ½	745	448 ¾
United Utilities	1417	+11	1457	914 ¾
Vesuvius	383 ¾	+5 ¼	503	355
Victrex	816	+5	816	539
Vietnam Enterprise	718	-10	848	684
VinaCapital Vietna	438	+2	499	414 ½
Vistry Group	272 ⅝	-11 ⅜	736 ¾	224 ⅜
Vodafone Gp	114 ⅜	-2 ½	123 ¼	83 ⅝
Volution	689	-3	712	562
W.A.G	100 ½		106	82
Watches of Switz	745	+11 ½	801 ½	318 ¾
Weir Gp	2688	+2	3546	2274
Wetherspoon (JD)	812	-2 ½	817	555 ½
WH Smith	440	-5	1355 ½	383 ¼
Whitbread	2521		3274	2234
Wickes Group	203 ½	+½	255	170 ¾
Wizz Air Holdings	1147	-10	1447	849 ½
Wood Gp(J)	29 ⅜		29 ⅜	18 ¼
WPP	307 ⅛	+2 ¼	403 ¼	224 ⅞
XPS Pensions	337	+4 ½	384	283
Zigup	464 ½	+2 ½	471 ½	301 ½

* Ex Dividend

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How Glasgow 2026 became the summer of sport Scotland needed

Fireworks on Clydeside during the recent closing ceremony of the Games Picture: PA

Comment
Scott Wright

WAS this the summer of sport that Glasgow and indeed Scotland needed, but did not quite appreciate how much?

As the dust settles on the Commonwealth Games, and memories of the Tartan Army takeover of Boston and Miami at the World Cup linger, I certainly think so.

Such a positive outcome from the Games had not been anticipated when Glasgow agreed to play host when Victoria, Australia, pulled out in July 2023, citing the costs of staging the event. Having hosted a successful edition of the Games in 2014, Glasgow already had much of the infrastructure in place – including the Tollcross International Swimming Centre, the Emirates Arena and Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome and Scotstoun Stadium – to welcome the Commonwealth athletes again without much further investment.

But, when Glasgow was announced in September 2024 as the host city for a scaled-down Games in 2026, it is fair to say that many observers were not convinced that the timing was right. Glasgow was still slowly emerging from the after-effects of the pandemic, economic challenges were pressing, and many high-profile areas were in urgent need of care and attention. The feeling of dissatisfaction with the city was palpable.

Many of those concerns were still uppermost in minds by the time the Games came around last month, and not least because of the devastating Union Corner fire in March that brought yet more upheaval and changed the landscape of the city next to Central Station forever.

Parts of the city remain blighted by decay and it has been a summer of significant political unrest, which seemed to peak with the recent clashes between anti-immigration and anti-racism groups on Glasgow Green.

But seemingly against all the odds, Glasgow 2026 is rightly being seen as a quiet triumph.

It perhaps helped that expectations were on the low side. The narrative in the build-up was very much anchored on the fact that this would be a slimmed-down event (only 10 sports featured, compared with 20 at Birmingham in 2022 and 16 when Glasgow last hosted in 2014), with the bulk of the funding coming not from the public purse but from the Commonwealth Games Federation.

There was also a sense that the Games would lack the stardust of the 2014 edition, which featured Jamaican sprint legend Usain Bolt leading his country to gold in the 4x100m relay, as well as London 2012 Team GB stars such as Mo Farah, Greg Rutherford, and Tom Daley.

This impression was also not helped by the fact that some leading athletes opted to skip Glasgow 2026 to save themselves for the European Athletics Championships and the World Athletics Championships, which take place respectively in Birmingham next week and Budapest in September.

However, the Commonwealth Games served up an array of wonderful sporting moments, from Josh Kerr's gold in the men's mile at Scotstoun to the brave displays of swimmer Archie Goodburn, who finished joint seventh in the men's 50m breaststroke final – two years after being diagnosed with brain cancer. The swimmer has now emerged as an inspiring advocate for greater funding into research for treatments for the disease, with Prime Minister Andy Burnham reaching out to the young athlete yesterday following an impassioned plea on BBC Breakfast.

And, while there were quibbles in some quarters about ticket prices, and complaints that most of the live action was not available on free-to-air television in the UK, the people of Glasgow seemed to wholeheartedly embrace the event. There is no denying that the mood in the city was lifted while the Games were in full swing. The sun even shone (at times), adding to the festival feeling.

> "There is no denying that the mood in the city was lifted while the Games were in full swing

In terms of international standing, the Games offered a timely reminder that Glasgow is really rather good at staging these large-scale events. And, while some may view this as a cliché, the people of Scotland really do play a key role in these successes, and once more rolled out the welcome mat and supported athletes exuberantly across a range of sports.

While it is too early to know the economic impact that hosting the Games will have, the display of soft power we have just witnessed will only have strengthened Glasgow's image, despite the problems which continue to blight the city in certain areas.

Glasgow has become a strong performer in attracting overseas investment in recent years, as the ongoing success of its international financial services district, for one, has shown, and this will surely only have been boosted by the Games.

And from the perspective of the Games itself, Glasgow would appear to have provided a template for a slimmed-down, slightly more modest version of the event that will allow a wider range of cities to be able to host in future.

Stuart Patrick, chief executive of Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, summed up the mood in the city well when he delivered his own verdict on the event this week.

"The Glasgow 2026 Organising Company took on a Commonwealth Games at record speed, on a leaner privately funded model and delivered it in full," he said. "This was a significant achievement, and it tells every investor and event organiser watching that Glasgow can stage a global event and do it well.

"Congratulations to the whole team, and to the volunteers, athletes and venues who brought the city to life over 11 days. The value of this will show in the visitors, investment and event bids Glasgow secures in the years ahead."

Coming so soon after the World Cup in the US, Canada and Mexico, at which the Tartan Army once again proved to be fantastic ambassadors for Scottish tourism, it has been an unexpected summer of sporting success, even though John McGinn and co did not quite live up to the nation's hopes on the field.

At a time when good news seems hard to come by, the timing could not have been better.

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Scotland 'could add £20bn a year' to its economy without a penny extra spending

Richard Lennox is a veteran of Scottish tech success stories like Skyscanner

Kristy Dorsey

SCOTLAND could create more than 130,000 high-value jobs and add at least £20 billion a year to the economy without committing a single extra pound of public money, according to a new report that argues the country's entrepreneurial support system is failing to target businesses at the moment they most need help.

The Framing Scotland's Entrepreneurial Economy report has been produced by Richard Lennox, the chief operating officer of CodeBase and a veteran of Scottish technology success stories Skyscanner and Current Health.

The report's central claim is that Scotland's long-running debate about funding for entrepreneurs has focused on the wrong issue.

Rather than increasing budgets or creating new programmes, policymakers should concentrate on directing existing resources more effectively towards high-growth firms.

While companies growing their turnover or workforce by more than 20% over a three-year period account for only around 0.5% of Scotland's SMEs, they generate roughly one-third of all SME turnover.

The challenge is not producing more start-ups, Mr Lennox argues, but ensuring promising firms can make the difficult transition from early-stage ventures into larger, internationally competitive businesses.

"The fix isn't a bigger budget or another programme," he said. "It's discipline about where the existing money goes.

"Every intervention should be able to answer one question: did this put something of genuine value in the hands of a founder, at the moment they needed it?

"If it can't, we should stop funding it and redirect that money to something that can."

Rather than funding programmes and then assessing how many founders participate, he argues that support should be designed around the needs of entrepreneurs at different stages of development and judged on whether companies actually progress.

The report further identifies what Mr Lennox sees as a persistent blind spot in Scotland's ecosystem.

While support for firms already moving along a growth trajectory has improved, businesses at a crucial inflection point are often underserved. Mr Lennox asserts that these operations have the greatest potential to create jobs, attract investment and generate long-term economic value.

Mr Lennox proposes a framework built around what he calls the "parallel destinies principle", recognising that not every company is trying to become the same kind of business.

From there, support would be organised across three areas: access to capital, access to customers and markets, and operator-led guidance from experienced entrepreneurs.

These would then be mapped against four stages of development, ranging from ideation through to scale.

The report points to a new generation of Scottish technology firms including Wordsmith, Simple Online Healthcare, Malted AI and Chemify as evidence that Scotland already possesses many of the ingredients required for success. Mr Lennox said these are evidence that Scotland benefits from strong technical talent, respected research institutions, and an increasingly experienced community of founders and operators.

There is, however, one major intervention that he believes government alone can deliver.

In perhaps the report's most ambitious recommendation, Mr Lennox calls for Scotland to attract a major global technology company capable of employing around 1,000 highly-skilled workers and participating actively in the wider ecosystem.

Mr Lennox cites companies such as Google, Anthropic and OpenAI as examples of the type of employer that could accelerate the development of Scotland's technology sector.

> "It's discipline about where the existing money goes

"Dublin, Berlin, and London compounded their entrepreneurial ecosystems in part because large-scale technology employers like Amazon, Meta, and Alphabet established significant campuses that trained technical talent at scale, created the density of expertise that spun out into new companies, and signalled to international talent that the ecosystem was worth relocating to," Mr Lennox said.

He added: "Scotland does not have an equivalent, and relies on the successful homegrown businesses like Skyscanner who have scaled."

The Pollokshields development

Glasgow social housing scheme shortlisted for national architecture award

Rose Moncur

A GLASGOW social housing development has been shortlisted for one of the UK's leading architecture awards.

St Andrew's Drive Phases 2 and 3 in Pollokshields has been named on the shortlist for the 2026 Neave Brown Award for Housing, presented annually by the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

Designed by jmarchitects, the development delivers 120 affordable homes through a mix of stacked maisonettes, apartments and terraced housing arranged around shared green space.

The award, named after the late architect and social housing pioneer Neave Brown, recognises the UK's best new affordable housing.

The Glasgow development is one of four projects shortlisted, alongside Canada Water Plot K1 in London, Lion Green Road in Croydon, and another housing scheme in Haringey.

The Neave Brown Award shortlist is selected from the winners of the 2026 RIBA UK Awards.

The winner will be announced at the RIBA Stirling Prize ceremony on October 15 at Old Billingsgate in London.

Neave Brown, after whom the award is named, was a pioneering modernist architect best known for his influential social housing developments in north London, including the Alexandra Road estate. He was awarded the Royal Gold Medal for Architecture in 2018, the UK's highest architectural honour.

Helen Lee, associate director at Witherford Watson Mann Architects and chair of the jury, said: "This year's shortlist for the Neave Brown Award for Housing celebrates four exceptionally high-quality affordable housing projects built in the UK recently, each reflecting Neave Brown's belief in community-focused and contextually responsive architecture.

"The jury deliberated over a very strong pool of eligible projects.

"From pavilions in a free-flowing park land in Coulsdon, to low carbon 100% affordable housing in Canada Water, new homes in Haringey which successfully tackle a difficult edge site, and a high-quality landscape led scheme in Glasgow, this year's shortlisted projects each respond skilfully to the unique urban challenges of their sites, creating beautiful and enduring places to live, supporting communities to grow and evolve."

NEWSQUESTEVENTS
SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND

The Herald

Scotland's family business leaders are set to gather and share succession insights, celebrate success and explore the challenges of securing the next generation's legacy.
By Agnes Stevenson

Left, David Equi of Equi Ice Cream, Emma Fairbairns of Hebrides Cruises, Brian Taylor, Tina O'Connor of Border Biscuits and Stephen O'Neill of Newton Property are pictured at the Scottish Family Business Breakfast 2025 in association with Business Gateway

Breakfast event is a family affair

THE Herald Scottish Family Business Breakfast will take place on Thursday, 27 August at Berlinky's in Glasgow's Sauchiehall Street. This annual event has become a diary fixture for business leaders from companies of all sizes who recognise its valuable contribution to advancing the interests of one of the country's most important economic sectors.

The breakfast which is headline sponsored by Business Gateway, with additional sponsorship from Virgin Money, Malcolm Group and AAB will combine authoritative opinion and real world experience on the challenges and rewards that are unique to multi-generational enterprises.

The theme for this year's panel discussion will be 'The Next Chapter', and it will focus on how to protect family values while, at the same time, preparing for change.

Host Brian Taylor, will oversee proceedings while an expert panel delves deep into the issue of succession, exploring how it affects family relationships and impacts on non-family staff. The session will look at how families can have honest conversations about what comes next and it will consider the emotional and practical challenges of handing over the reins, including how best to involve external advisers.

Balancing community roots with change and growth will also be on the agenda and the session will provide insights into how to deal with issues that affect all family businesses, regardless of size or longevity, as they mature.

Other topics that will be raised during the discussion will include how to approach uncertainty over the readiness of the next generation; supporting the role of key staff members, and the difference between ownership and leadership.

The focus will be on how to keep key people engaged, informed and confident during periods of change and delegates will leave with practical ideas, language and tools to help turn succession from a difficult subject into a constructive, ongoing conversation within their own family business.

Also during the event, some of the longstanding judges of The Herald's Family Business Awards will hold a Q&A session with potential entrants, providing hints and tips on what makes a strong entry and giving insights into what they will be looking for from applicants for these prestigious titles. Over the years these awards, which launch again next week, have helped to increase awareness of the importance of family-run businesses in creating jobs and economic success in both rural and urban areas, helping to open up opportunities and often playing an important role in the communities in which they operate.

For all those involved, The Herald Family Business Breakfast plays an important role in supporting a key sector of Scotland's economic landscape.

David Henderson, Head of Strategic Finance at Virgin Money, said: "Family businesses are a huge part of Scotland's economy and play a vital role in the communities they serve. They're built on strong relationships and a commitment to creating something that lasts. That's why we're delighted to once again partner with The Herald and fellow sponsors for the Scottish Family Business Breakfast and the launch of the Scottish Family Business Awards.

"These events provide valuable opportunities for business owners and leaders to come together and learn from one another. We're looking forward to celebrating the achievements of family businesses across Scotland and recognising their important role in helping shape the country's future."

Neil Robb, Partner and Head of Business Advisory, AAB, said:"AAB is delighted to continue its support of the Scottish Family Business Breakfast. Family businesses play a vital role in Scotland's economy, demonstrating resilience, innovation and long-term thinking while making a lasting contribution to their communities. The Breakfast provides a valuable forum for owners and leaders to share experiences, exchange insights and discuss the issues that matter most to them. We're proud to support an event that celebrates and strengthens Scotland's family business community."

Andrew Malcolm, CEO, The Malcolm Group, said: "Family businesses have long played a unique role in shaping Scotland's business community and that's why we are delighted to support this event. It provides a valuable opportunity for owners to come together, exchange ideas and discuss the challenges and opportunities that affect them every day. When people come together to learn from each other's experiences, everyone benefits."

And Councillor Gail Macgregor, Chair of the Business Gateway Board and COSLA Spokesperson for Environment and Economy, said "We're delighted to support the Scottish Family Business Breakfast and bring together family business leaders and employees from across Scotland.

"Family businesses are built on strong values, long-term thinking and deep connections to their communities, and events like this provide an important forum to discuss the opportunities and challenges they face. By sharing experiences, insights and best practice, attendees can learn from one another, build valuable connections and help shape a stronger future for Scotland's family business community."

The Scottish Family Business Breakfast is a free event for anyone who owns or works for a family business. To register visit *www.newsquestscotlandevents.com/events/fambizbreakfast/* or scan the QR code above

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Business Voices

How Glasgow 2026 became the summer of sport Scotland needed

Scott Wright: Page 22

Scotland's investment bank backs city firm with £8.4m

Ian McConnell
Business Editor

A GLASGOW biopharmaceutical company has raised £34 million, including an £8.4m equity investment from the Scottish National Investment Bank, to support clinical development of its small-molecule therapeutics for the treatment of a life-threatening hereditary kidney disease.

Mironid said the funding would bring it "closer to transforming the treatment landscape for patients with rare kidney diseases".

The company's lead programme is for autosomal dominant polycystic kidney disease (ADPKD), which is characterised by uncontrolled growth of fluid-filled cysts.

ADPKD is one of the more prevalent rare diseases and the most common hereditary kidney disorder but has limited treatment options, Mironid noted.

The Scottish National Investment Bank declared that Mironid "exemplifies Scotland's growing reputation for biotech innovation".

It confirmed it would be a minority equity investor in Mironid.

Neil Wilkie, chief executive of Mironid, said: "ADPKD is the most common hereditary kidney disorder, affecting over 12 million people worldwide, with 50% of patients developing kidney failure by the age of 60. Securing funding from such a high-calibre syndicate is a strong validator of our approach to treating kidney diseases such as ADPKD.

"This financing will allow us to progress the clinical development of our lead candidate, bringing us closer to transforming the treatment landscape for patients with rare kidney diseases."

Mironid was founded through collaboration involving the University of Strathclyde and Heriot-Watt University.

Under Mr Wilkie, it has progressed a series of drug development programmes that target specific enzymes to generate novel and differentiated therapies for a range of diseases with high unmet medical need.

Mironid noted its "first-in-class" small-molecule "LoAc" drug candidates directly target the abnormally high kidney cyclic adenosine monophosphate (cAMP) levels that drive cyst formation.

The Scottish National Investment Bank observed it is joining existing investors in Mironid, including Roche Venture Fund, Epidarex Capital, Sofinnova Partners, BioGeneration Ventures, and the University of Strathclyde.

Paul Callaghan, investment director at the Scottish National Investment Bank, said: "Our investment in Mironid reflects our commitment to backing impactful Scottish businesses with high-growth potential.

"Mironid exemplifies Scotland's growing reputation for biotech innovation, developing a new treatment approach that could improve options for people living with kidney disease."

He added: "We are pleased to join a committed group of investors to support the company through this critical stage of development, helping it translate world-class research into clinical progress, commercial opportunity and potential patient benefit."

The Scottish National Investment Bank declared its funding of the Glasgow biopharmaceutical company builds on its commitment to scaling innovative Scottish companies and "will support Mironid's growth ambitions as it advances its novel therapy for patients with ADPKD".

The Scottish Government has committed to capitalising the Scottish National Investment Bank, which was established in November 2020, with £2 billion in its first 10 years.

Over time, as the initial investments of Scotland's development bank are repaid, the institution will reinvest those funds in more businesses and projects, in what the Scottish National Investment Bank characterises as "creating a perpetual investment fund to support the Scottish economy in the long term".

The Scottish National Investment Bank noted it exists to "provide patient – long-term – debt or equity investments to businesses and projects that support the development of a fairer, more sustainable Scottish economy".

It added: "The Bank is a public limited company ... It is wholly owned by Scottish Government ministers, on behalf of the people of Scotland, but operates independently from government.

"As an impact investor, the Bank is focused on delivering both commercial returns and tangible benefits that align with at least one of its three missions: 'net zero, addressing the climate crisis through growing a fair and sustainable economy; innovation, scaling up innovation and technology for a more competitive and productive economy'; and 'place, transforming communities to make them places where everyone thrives'."

BREAKTHROUGH THERAPIES.
NEXT-GENERATION CELL SIGNALLING BASED DRUG DISCOVERY
Our platform modulates critical signalling pathways to deliver differentiated treatments for diseases with limited options
Novel signalling target modulation
Strong pipeline
Focus on rare kidney disease

Neil Wilkie, CEO of Mironid; Peter Silver, Scottish National Investment Bank senior associate; and Paul Callaghan, investment director

Admiral's House

Historic Fife naval property set for auction

Rose Moncur

A HISTORIC coastal property with strong links to Scotland's naval history is set to go under the hammer.

Admiral's House in North Queensferry will be auctioned later this month with a guide price of £300,000.

Originally built in 1829 and remodelled around 1916, the B-listed property served as the residence of the Rosyth Naval Commander until 1996.

The building sits on almost four acres of land, including a section of foreshore, and enjoys panoramic views across the Firth of Forth.

Located west of the Queensferry Crossing, the property is accessed via a private road and security gate and is surrounded by mature woodland.

The house has fallen into disrepair and has been subject to vandalism in recent years but is being marketed as a redevelopment opportunity.

Admiral's House forms part of a portfolio of

Queensferry Crossing

properties being sold on behalf of Transport Scotland through Shepherd Commercial Property Auctions.

Other lots include a gate lodge near North Queensferry with a guide price of £25,000, The Fisheries site in South Queensferry guided at £200,000, and the C-listed Inchgarvie House with a guide price of £275,000.

The online auction will take place on August 20.

Gavin Russell, associate at Shepherds, said: "Every so often a property comes along which is truly unique, and Admiral's House is most definitely one of them.

"Sadly, the property has suffered from vandalism over the years. However, the combination of the site's coastal position, sizeable plot, and outstanding outlook provides a highly attractive development prospect for someone with vision, and it will be great to see the building being brought back into use."

City firm expands leadership team with two senior appointments

Rose Moncur

PROFESSIONAL services firm AAB has strengthened its regional leadership team with two senior appointments as it looks to support growth across Glasgow and central Scotland.

The firm, which has offices in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling, has appointed Malcolm Crawford as business development partner and promoted corporate finance partner Iain Walker to head of central Scotland.

Mr Crawford joins AAB with a background in corporate and relationship banking, including senior roles at Barclays, Royal Bank of Scotland, and Anglo Irish Bank.

Mr Walker will continue in his role as corporate finance partner alongside his new regional responsibilities.

Mr Walker and Mr Crawford

The firm employs more than 375 people across its central Scotland offices and is backed by Goldman Sachs Alternatives.

AAB now employs more than 1,800 people globally and generates more than £200 million in revenue.

John Beevers, head of regions at AAB, said: "As AAB continues to grow, it is important that we combine the scale, capability and expertise of a national firm with the strong local relationships and market understanding that clients value.

"Malcolm brings significant experience and connections from across Scotland's business community, while Iain's appointment builds on the strong relationships and market knowledge he has developed during his time at AAB.

"Together, they further strengthen our ability to support ambitious businesses across Central Scotland as they navigate growth, change and opportunity."

Malcolm Crawford, business development partner at AAB, said: "Joining AAB at such an exciting time for the Central Scotland team is a fantastic opportunity.

"I've long admired the firm's reputation for combining technical expertise with a genuinely personal approach, and I'm looking forward to building relationships with clients."

Iain Walker, head of central Scotland and corporate finance partner at AAB, said: "I'm delighted to take on this new regional role alongside my Corporate Finance work with clients.

"It's a great opportunity to help shape AAB's growth across central Scotland while continuing to do what I enjoy most – supporting clients through some of the most significant moments in their business journey.

"My focus will be on ensuring businesses across the region can benefit from AAB's expertise."

Firm marked 95 years

Metal recycling firm's profits surge

Brian Donnelly

A SCOTTISH company involved in decommissioning oil and gas industry infrastructure has posted soaring profits.

Aberdeen-based John Lawrie Metals Limited started 95 years ago as a scrap metal business and has grown into "one of Scotland's leading metal recycling and decommissioning companies".

The firm posted the profit rise in accounts for the year ended December 31, 2025.

It said it has had "a satisfactory trading year in light of market conditions".

The firm's operating profit was £1.4 million, set against a break-even year in 2024, and it said it "retains a healthy working capital" of £4.5m, set against £2.7m in the prior period. Turnover was also steady at £47m.

It handles around 200,000 tonnes of scrap metal annually, and has yards and metal recycling locations in Aberdeen, Shetland and Evanton, near Inverness.

The directors said: "The company's activities are affected by certain commodities prices, being steel and oil and gas.

"The movements in the price of these commodities have a direct and indirect effect on the price of materials that the company trades in. The company continually monitors these markets in order to manage any risk and take advantage of any opportunities that arise."

It said as it celebrated its 95th anniversary this week: "From dismantling offshore infrastructure and processing large-scale industrial projects to helping a local electrician recycle copper cable, every job contributes to the same goal – keeping valuable materials in circulation and reducing waste.

"Metal recycling isn't just about processing scrap. It's about protecting resources, reducing carbon emissions and giving materials a second life. That purpose has become even more important as industries look to reduce their environmental impact and embrace the circular economy."

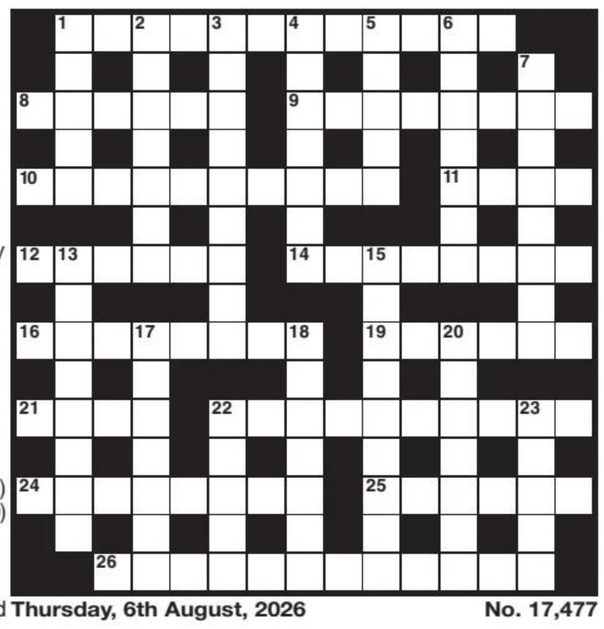
The firm said: "Every milestone we've reached over the past 95 years has been built by generations of hardworking employees. Some families have had more than one generation work at John Lawrie Metals."

The Herald crosswords

More puzzles on Page 18

ACROSS

1 Geniality at home, without mates outside (12)
8 Get back engineers before military takeover (6)
9 Dispute game and turn awkward (8)
10 Fish logo, it's modified by visionary (10)
11 Applications of topless vehicles (4)
12 Is able falteringly to descend by rope (6)
14 Go by steamship on a French sea to obtain light, flimsy material (8)
16 An accountant intended to return to university life (8)
19 Leader of gang enters passenger ship to delay departure (6)
21 Slope making pram unsteady (4)
22 Crazy reason to get the train (10)
24 Some lied about tunes (8)
25 All but Nigerian leader to advance (6)
26 Frank arrived with artillery at old prank show (6,6)



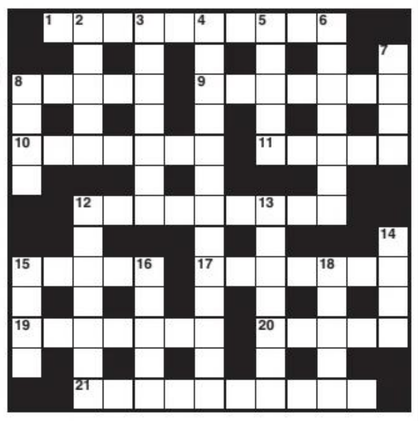
Thursday, 6th August, 2026 — No. 17,477

DOWN

1 Demon to discover around the east (5)
2 Type of atom is getting round with highest energy (7)
3 Upset noble romp? Nothing to worry about (2,7)
4 I angled to become principal (7)
5 Thing turning in the dark (5)
6 Raising a young animal, mother's got spirit (7)
7 Go before having to surrender poker stake first (8)
13 Sauce cold in melba he contrived (8)
15 Almanac as distributed by Iberian city (9)
17 Envoy has no time to get a certificate (7)
18 Prisoner's account, note, is second-hand (7)
20 Fool to value salt (7)
22 I run into young chap, a landowner (5)
23 Home I will shortly find in Virginia (5)

ACROSS

1 Pale yellow food dressing (5,5)
8 Short-legged canine (5)
9 Person who shoes horses (7)
10 Feeling of unease (7)
11 Begin, found (3,2)
12 Colour of greying leaves (4-5)
15 Cattle farm (5)
17 Delayed (7)
19 National, resident (7)
20 Inebriated (5)
21 Running water driving a flour crusher (10)



DOWN

2 Fourth month (5)
3 Continual, permanent (7)
4 Beverage sediment (6,7)
5 ___ Court, London precinct (5)
6 Dampen (7)
7 Leak (water) slowly (4)
8 Nomadic settlement (4)
12 Holy place in a temple (7)
13 Voter (7)
14 Remarkable deed (4)
15 Near the knuckle (4)
16 Light-brown nut (5)
18 Fixed opinion (5)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

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